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# St. Kitts-Nevis- Anguilla 1955 & 1956

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# ST. KITTS-NEVIS- ANGUILLA

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Report for the year  
1955 & 1956

*LONDON*  
**HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE**  
**1958**

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## PART I

### *Chapter 1: General Review of 1955 and 1956*

ONE of the outstanding events of 1955 was the visit to St. Kitts made in February by Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret during her Caribbean tour. Her Royal Highness spent most of one day there and in the course of it drove round the island and visited the sugar factory. In July, St. Kitts and Nevis were visited by members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association delegation which toured the Caribbean.

In the same year the Legislature adopted in principle the plan for a British Caribbean Federation produced by the London Conference of 1953, and in February, 1956, a delegate attended the London Conference which agreed on the means of bringing the Federation into being.

On the 1st July, 1956, St. Kitts–Nevis–Anguilla ceased to be a presidency of the Leeward Islands Federation and became a separate Colony. This was the result of the Leeward Islands Act which, in accordance with the wishes of the Leeward Islanders, abolished the Federation and turned its constituent presidencies into four separate colonies. These remain under one Governor.

On the 19th January, 1956, a new constitution came into operation, creating a majority of elected members on the Executive Council, which became the principal instrument of policy; three elected members of this Council were appointed Ministers.

Concurrently with the introduction of the Ministerial system a Public Service Commission was set up to advise the Governor of the Leeward Islands and the Administrator of the Colony on appointments, transfers and promotion of members of the Civil Service. Civil Service salaries were further increased by 20 per cent with effect from the 1st January, 1956. To meet the growing realisation of the need for training civil servants a two-week course for selected officers was held under the auspices of the Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies. A "Civil Service" week, also, was successfully run by the Civil Service Association, in July, 1956.

It was announced that the Colony's Colonial Development and Welfare allocation for 1955–60 would be £400,000, which with the unspent balance of previous allocations has made £497,000 available for the period. The Development Plan includes provision for additional electricity generating equipment, enlargement of Golden Rock Airport and a school building programme.

Under the auspices of the University College of the West Indies a course for foremen was held at St. Kitts (Basseterre) sugar factory,

and was attended with great enthusiasm. There were no major stoppages in industry in the period reviewed and all disputes were settled by direct negotiation between the parties concerned.

The serious housing situation was somewhat relieved by the provision of more land for housing and the erection of new homes. As a result of the Central Housing and Planning Authority making available prefabricated timber buildings, the number of "trash" houses has been greatly reduced. Sixty-seven prefabricated houses were built in 1955-56 and another 86 concrete blockhouses completed on the aided self-help principle.

Damage was caused to sea works and shipping in St. Kitts and Nevis by hurricane "Greta" in November, 1956.

## PART II

### *Chapter 1: Population*

THE following figures show the actual population of the Colony in 1946, the year in which the last census was taken, and the estimated population on the 31st December, 1955, and 1956:

1946	1955	1956
46,243	54,327	55,355

Vital statistics are given in Chapter 7.

### *Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation*

#### EMPLOYMENT

THE numbers employed in the principal occupations in 1955–56 were as follows:

#### *Numbers Employed in the Sugar Industry*

Year	Month	Sugar Estates			Sugar Factory		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1955	June	3,898	2,617	6,515	929	12	941
	Dec.,	1,840	1,666	3,506	540	6	546
1956	June	3,780	2,562	6,342	942	13	955
	Dec.	1,974	1,764	3,738	696	6	702

#### *Numbers Employed in Other Main Occupations*

Year	Government Departments				Cotton Ginnery			Water-front
	Month	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
1955	June	566	36	602	19	2	21	281
	Dec.	572	33	605	17	15	32	289
1956	June	456	27	483	19	2	21	361
	Dec.	610	41	651	15	13	41	359

The period of greatest unemployment coincides with the "out of crop" season in the sugar industry in St. Kitts. The position is not so readily assessable in Nevis and Anguilla where there is a low proportion of persons entirely dependent upon a weekly wage, and where the problem is more affected by that of under-employment.

**There is no migrant labour employed in the Colony.**

There were 123 workers in the United States engaged in agricultural work. All recruitment is handled by the Department of Labour on behalf of the Regional Labour Board which controls the scheme. The Regional Labour Board is composed of Government delegates of all participating countries. Government control is exercised through the Board, which maintains representatives in the United States together with a liaison staff.

## **WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT**

**Average wages were as shown below:**

<i>Estate Male Labourers</i>	<i>Average Weekly Wage</i>
per day \$1.36	
Cutters . . . . .	\$ 16.54
Handers . . . . .	14.48
Packers . . . . .	17.67
Tractor Drivers . . . . .	30.59
Truck Drivers . . . . .	(Not available)

<i>Estate Female Labourers</i>	(Not available)
per day \$1.01	
Farming (weeding) cotton	. . . per acre \$1.26-\$1.47
Picking Cotton	. . . per 100 lb. \$3.30
Cleaning Cotton	. . . per 100 lb. \$1.20
Pulling Cotton	. . . per acre \$1.31-\$1.47
Heaping Cotton	. . . per acre 40c
Burning Cotton	. . . per acre 26c
Cleaning up field	. . . per acre \$3.34

*Ginnery Male Labourers*  
per day \$1.32  
*Ginnery Female Labourers*  
per day 84c

Wage rates in other occupations were:

*Artisans*: per day, various rates, average perhaps about \$4·16

**Road Maintenance, Male Labourers:** per day, \$2.48

**Road Maintenance, Female Labourers:** per day, \$1·68

**Commercial Store Clerks, Male:** per week, \$8.00 to \$20.00

**Commercial Store Clerks, Female:** per week, \$6.00 to

The accepted rate for overtime is time and a half normal rates. Bonuses are paid by all industries. Government non-established workers receive a bonus payment in December amounting to three per cent of their annual wages. Double time is paid for work performed on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

The working week remains generally at between 40 and 48 hours.

All workers are entitled to an annual holiday with pay. On the estates the qualifying period is 36 weeks for regular workers; seasonal workers (i.e., who work during the crop season only) also receive a holiday with pay reduced proportionately to the period of continuous employment. Government non-established workers are entitled to seven days holiday with pay after completing 240 days; workers whose annual earning period is between 120 and 240 days are entitled to a holiday with pay reduced proportionately.

There is no night work by women in any of the industrial undertakings.

#### COST OF LIVING

Cost of living figures, formerly based on a budgetary scale adopted in August, 1939, as being a reasonable estimate of the weekly expenditure on commodities used by the unmarried labouring man in the town of Basseterre, are not now collected.

Since 1939, living habits and standards have changed, and therefore the weighting and sampling of the 1939 budget is out of gear with present trends. Some of the items used for the index are becoming obsolete and, by and large, the index has ceased to be a useful reflection of the labourer's cost of living. The index covers only 35 items and takes no account of some items which by present-day standards affect various classes of the community.

The Retail Price Index is a more comprehensive compilation covering 229 items in 12 groups, as follows:

	No. of Items
Cereals . . . . .	11
Meat and Fish . . . . .	20
Dairy Produce, Oils and Fats . . . . .	12
Fruit and Vegetables . . . . .	18
Other Foods and Beverages . . . . .	15
Liquor and Tobacco . . . . .	13
Textiles, Clothing, Footwear . . . . .	48 (Men, Women and Children)
Toilet Accessories, Cleaning Materials and Medicines . . . . .	31
Household Goods and Tools . . . . .	24
Fuel and Light . . . . .	9
Transport . . . . .	10
Building Materials . . . . .	18
Total . . . . .	<hr/> 229

This index does not measure rents or the cost of services, e.g., haircuts or hairdressing, omnibus fares, cinema seats, dance tickets, boot and shoe repairs, laundry, insurance costs. Its purpose is to reflect a more accurate picture of the trend of costs to the consumer.

Prices as at 15th October, 1951, are taken as "Base" = 100: surveys are performed quarterly.

Items within the groups and the groups themselves are weighted in accordance with estimated consumption on a population basis.

Figures for the index of retail price movements are collected on the 15th day of February, May, August and November in each year, and in 1955 and 1956 were as follows:

<i>Year</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>November</i>
1955	109	111	111	109
1956	112.5	111.4	112	111

### *Prices of Foodstuffs*

	<i>1955</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>	<i>1956</i>
	<i>June</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>December</i>
Rice . . . . .	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Cornmeal . . . . .	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14
Flour . . . . .	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11
Cooking Oil . . . . .	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72
Margarine . . . . .	0.58	0.61	0.61	0.61
Salt Pork . . . . .	0.64	0.60	0.60	0.66
Salt Fish . . . . .	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42
Fresh Fish . . . . .	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28
Dried Peas . . . . .	0.24	0.24	0.22	0.22
Fresh Meat . . . . .	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40
Milk, Fresh . . . . .	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Onions . . . . .	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24
Ground Provisions . . . . .	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14
Sugar, grey crystals . . . . .	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
Cocoa . . . . .	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84

### **LABOUR DEPARTMENT**

The Labour Department is situated centrally in the town of Basseterre, and is of easy access to members of the public. Its aims and duties are as follows:

- (a) advice to Government on labour matters generally;
- (b) the encouragement of collective bargaining and where necessary the institution of statutory wage-fixing machinery;
- (c) the study of existing labour organisations and unions and advice on principles of organisation and collective bargaining;
- (d) the improvement of industrial relations by maintaining constant contact with employers and workers and providing all possible help in conciliating the parties to trade disputes;
- (e) the introduction of regular and systematic inspection of all work places with a view to establishing healthy and decent conditions and reducing accidents to a minimum;
- (f) the protection of women and juvenile workers;
- (g) ensuring the due observance of certain labour laws;
- (h) periodical review of labour laws in relation to international labour conventions;
- (i) the introduction and supervision of workmen's compensation schemes;
- (j) the administering of apprentice and other industrial training; and,
- (k) the collection and publication of statistics on various matters connected with labour.

The Department does not run a labour exchange but, wherever possible, endeavours to provide equivalent facilities as, for instance, in the handling of workers emigrating to the United States under the scheme operated by the Regional Labour Board. The Department also functions as an exchange in connection with the registration and rotation of port workers.

#### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

There were five organisations operating as trade unions. The St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union is a general workers' union, registered in 1940, with a membership of about 4,000. It caters for workers of all occupations. It is active and effective and operated on democratic lines. The largest employers' association is the St. Kitts Sugar Producers' Association, which covers the employers' side of the sugar industry. The other associations are small.

Wage-fixing continues to be determined annually by negotiation between the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union, and the St. Kitts Sugar Producers' Association, steamship agents and heads of Government departments. There were no major stoppages in industry during the period reviewed, and all disputes were settled by direct negotiation between both parties, sometimes with the assistance of the Labour Department.

A joint committee composed of representatives of the Sugar Producers' Association and the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union operated successfully in the suppression of cane fires.

#### SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

In 1955, 23 (including one fatal) accidents occurred at the St. Kitts (Basseterre) sugar factory, claims paid amounting to \$1,803·96. In other branches of employment there were 55 claims for accidents by Government non-established workers, claims paid amounting to \$884·28; 266 claims by agricultural workers (including one fatal), claims paid amounting to \$4,510·41; 15 claims by waterfront workers, claims paid amounting to \$461·00; and one claim by a cotton ginnery worker, claim paid amounting to \$772·03.

#### INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

A system of indenture and controlled instruction was started on a voluntary basis in 1951, operated by a Craftsmen's Selection Board composed of representatives of the Master Craftsmen Guild, Trades and Labour Union and Heads of Government Departments, under the chairmanship of the Labour Commissioner.

With the assistance of a Colonial Development and Welfare grant a training centre is being built by the voluntary effort of tradesmen and apprentices.

Apprentices receive training in carpentry, joinery, masonry, electricity, welding, motor mechanics, electrical fitting and machining, printing and tailoring.

In 1956 a course for foremen was conducted at the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory under the auspices of the University College of the West Indies (Extra Mural Department). Lectures and debates were attended by managers and overseers of the factory and estates, Government foremen and private artisans, and representative foremen from Antigua. Judging from the enthusiasm displayed, it seems likely that such courses can be successfully repeated.

### *Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation*

The Colony's financial year runs from the 1st January to the 31st December.

#### REVENUE

Colony revenue less self-balancing items as originally estimated for 1955 and 1956 is shown below against actual collections for 1955 and revised estimates for 1956.

	1955	1956
	\$	\$
Estimated . . . . .	3,524,415	4,002,800
Actually Collected . . . . .	3,494,501	—
Revised Estimate . . . . .	—	3,834,500

The following table shows the actual revenue for 1954 and 1955 and the revised revenue for 1956 under the main heads.

	1955 Actual	Per cent of True Reve- nue	1955 Actual	Per cent of True Reve- nue	1956 Revised	Per cent of True Reve- nue
	\$		\$		\$	
<i>Revenue from Taxation</i>						
Income Tax . . . . .	1,123,790	30·3	1,061,056	30·4	1,200,000	31·3
Other Taxes . . . . .	125,005	3·4	132,366	3·8	134,100	3·5
<i>Total Direct Taxes</i> . .	1,248,795	33·7	1,193,422	34·2	1,334,100	34·8
Customs and Excise . .	1,522,079	41·1	1,470,633	42·1	1,625,400	42·4
Licences . . . . .	49,784	1·3	52,202	1·5	54,400	1·4
Other Internal Revenue . .	140,768	3·8	154,412	4·4	157,000	4·1
<i>Total Tax Revenue</i> . .	2,961,426	79·9	2,870,669	82·2	3,170,900	82·7
Fees of Court or Office . .	144,965	3·9	172,987	4·9	167,000	4·4
Post Office, Telephones Electricity and Cold Storage . . . . .	351,754	9·5	317,825	9·1	337,850	8·8
Other Items . . . . .	246,468	6·7	133,020	3·8	158,750	4·1
<i>Total True Revenue</i> . .	<u>3,704,613</u>	<u>100·0</u>	<u>3,494,501</u>	<u>100·0</u>	<u>3,834,500</u>	<u>100·0</u>

Revenue per head of population for these years was as shown in the following table:

Estimated Population	1954	1955	1956
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Direct Taxation . . .	22·71	23·64	24·09
Indirect Taxation . . .	31·14	30·90	33·11
Tax Revenue per head . . .	53·85	54·54	57·20
Other sources of Revenue . . .	13·51	11·49	11·98
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	67·36	66·03	69·18

#### EXPENDITURE

For the period under review the estimates of expenditure include both normal recurrent items and capital development expenditure. Development expenditure included in the years 1955 and 1956 was as follows:

1955 (Actual)	\$804,000
1956 (Revised)	\$973,000

The main heads of expenditure and percentages which each item bears to the true local expenditure of the Colony were:

	1954 Actual	Per- cent- age	1955 Actual	Per- cent- age	1956 Revised	Per- cent- age
Administration . . .	\$ 405,087	12·6	\$ 489,223	13·8	\$ 507,965	11·2
Legal . . .	35,288	1·1	35,571	1·0	59,902	1·3
Financial . . .	289,376	8·9	295,122	8·3	452,893	9·9
Trade and Production . . .	209,237	6·6	201,003	5·7	324,115	7·1
Communications and Works . . .	1,088,608	33·8	1,229,314	34·8	1,460,997	32·3
Social Services . . .	1,039,546	32·4	1,099,493	31·0	1,484,218	32·8
Miscellaneous . . .	148,632	4·6	192,006	5·4	246,865	5·4
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	3,215,774	100·0	3,541,732	100·0	4,536,955	100·0

#### DEVELOPMENT

The 1955–1960 Development Plan envisages the spending of over \$6,000,000. Among the schemes which will bring economic advancement are the agricultural development of Nevis, the provision of additional generating equipment to supply all three islands of the Colony with adequate and cheap current and the enlargement of the Golden Rock Airport to enable it to accommodate main line air traffic. Provision is also made for a school building programme.

### PUBLIC DEBT

The Colony's Public Debt at 31st December, 1955, amounted to \$985,967; this sum includes \$31,000 in respect of Colonial Development and Welfare loans and \$42,965 in respect of a loan from Imperial funds for earthquake reconstruction, the terms of repayment of which have not yet been fixed. Debt charges in respect of 1955 amounted to \$46,061; the estimated figure for 1956 is \$54,043. The expenditure on development projects during 1955 has been from advances in anticipation of loans and amounted to some \$700,000 at the end of 1956.

### TAXATION

The only significant changes in the rates of customs duties were brought about in 1956 with the passing of first, the Customs Duties (Amendment) Ordinance 1956, No. 22 of 1956, whereby *ad valorem* duty would be assessed on the c.i.f. valuation of goods instead of the f.o.b. valuation as heretofore; and secondly, by a resolution amending the First Schedule to the Customs Duties Ordinance and increasing the rates of duty on gasoline, perfumery and toilet articles, potable spirits and tobacco.

The rate of duty payable on most of the articles imported is 10 per cent *ad valorem* Preferential and 15 per cent *ad valorem* General. For motor cycles and cars the rates are 10 per cent and 30 per cent respectively. Agricultural machinery is free of duty and most other types of machinery are dutiable at 5 per cent and 7½ per cent.

Specific rates of duty are applicable for the most part to items of oils (including gasoline), foodstuffs, liquor, tobacco and lumber.

Export duty is levied on most articles exported, the main items being as follows:

	Rate
Cotton, Clean, Grown in St. Kitts . . . . .	per lb. 8 cents
Cotton, Clean, Grown in Nevis or Anguilla . . . . .	per lb. 1 cent
Salt, Coarse . . . . .	per barrel
	of 300 lb. 12 cents
Sugar . . . . .	per ton \$8·58

Exemption or relief from taxation, both direct and indirect, can be obtained subject to certain conditions under the Hotels Aid Ordinance and Pioneer Industries Ordinance.

### INCOME TAX

Income Tax is charged under the St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla Ordinance No. 10 of 1945, as amended. It is based upon the income of the year preceding that in which the tax is actually charged.

Residents are assessed on income accruing in, derived from or received in the Colony, and non-residents on income accruing in, or derived from the Colony, whether received in the Colony or not.

The following personal allowances are granted:

(i) *Earned Income Relief*. An amount equal to one-tenth of the earned income, i.e., income derived from a trade, profession,

business, from employment, or from agriculture, provided that the individual is actively engaged in the procuring of income from that source. This relief is subject to a maximum of \$1,000. (\$480 prior to 1955).

(ii) *Resident or British Subject Relief.* An individual who is resident in the Colony or who is a British Subject is allowed a deduction of \$1,000. (\$480 prior to 1955.)

(iii) *Allowance in Respect of Wife.* A further allowance of \$720 is given to a married man whose wife was living with or maintained by him during the year of account. (\$480 prior to 1955).

(iv) *Child Relief.* There is allowed in respect of each child under the age of 13 who attended some school or other educational establishment during the year of account and in respect of each child under the age of 16 who did not attend such school etc. an amount of \$288. In respect of each child over the age of 13 and under 25 who attended some school or other educational establishment within the Colony there is an allowance of \$360, and any who attended such school etc. outside the Colony an allowance of \$720.

(v) *Dependent Relative Relief.* A total relief of \$120 is given for any dependent relative who is unable through old age or infirmity to maintain himself, and for the mother of an individual or his wife whether she is able to work or not. Provided that if more than one individual contributes to the support of the individual, the total relief is divided proportionately between them.

(vi) *Relief in Respect of Contributions to an Approved Pension Scheme or Superannuation Fund.* Any amount paid by an individual to an approved Pension Scheme or Superannuation Fund is allowed as a deduction before granting relief under head (i) above.

(vii) *Life Insurance Relief.* The total amount of premiums paid to an insurance company in respect of the life of an individual, or that of his wife, is allowed as a deduction provided this amount does not exceed one-sixth of the income remaining after giving relief under Heads (i), (ii) and (v) above.

#### *The Rates of Tax*

On every pound of the first £100 of chargeable income	next £100	6d. in the £
" "	£100	1s. 5d. "
" "	£100	1s. 6d. "
" "	£100	2s. 0d. "
" "	£100	2s. 6d. "
" "	£100	3s. 0d. "
" "	£200	4s. 0d. "
" "	£300	5s. 0d. "
" "	£400	7s. 0d. "
" "	£500	9s. 0d. "
" "	£500	10s. 0d. "
" "	£500	12s. 0d. "
" "	£500	13s. 0d. "
" "	£500	14s. 0d. "
" "	beyond £4,000	15s. 0d. "
Company Rate	.	8s. 0d. "

Assessments made for the years 1954 (based upon the income of the year 1953) and 1955 (based upon the income of the year 1954), and the incidence of tax on individuals at varying rates of income and of companies are shown in the following table:

Group	1954		1955	
	Number	Tax	Number	Tax
£      £				
100- 200 . . . . .	765	\$ 2,811.70	—	—
201- 300 . . . . .	400	4,912.48	143	440.56
301- 400 . . . . .	210	4,941.30	125	1,406.56
401- 500 . . . . .	119	5,363.20	97	2,054.88
501- 600 . . . . .	63	4,270.28	53	1,859.12
601- 800 . . . . .	78	7,611.72	75	5,589.80
801-1,100 . . . . .	73	15,324.73	84	10,601.33
1,101-1,500 . . . . .	48	23,099.07	42	17,548.84
1,501-2,000 . . . . .	23	21,982.68	29	19,664.56
2,001-2,500 . . . . .	11	22,910.04	13	19,657.94
2,501-3,000 . . . . .	6	16,515.10	6	7,586.16
3,001-3,500 . . . . .	1	383.52	5	7,627.94
3,501-4,000 . . . . .	4	16,329.66	5	9,829.77
Beyond 4,000 . . . . .	26	310,098.03	17	188,808.42
Companies . . . . .	36	747,490.11	38	722,959.94

## *Chapter 4: Currency and Banking*

THE Currency Act, No. 4 of 1950, was designed to implement an agreement between the British Colonies in the Eastern Caribbean to provide for a uniform currency, and a Board of Commissioners of Currency was constituted by the appointment by the Secretary of State of five Commissioners, one each from Barbados, British Guiana, the Leeward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and the Windward Islands.

Notes of the British Caribbean Currency Board (\$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$100) and United Kingdom coin are legal tender throughout the Colony. The notes in use are predominantly those of the British Caribbean Currency Board. The dollar system of accounting is used by the Government, the banks and commercial houses.

The rate of exchange is \$4.80 B.W.I. to £1 sterling.

Barclays Bank, D.C.O., and the Royal Bank of Canada each operate a branch in St. Kitts. A co-operative bank in Nevis, the "Nevis Co-operative Bank", was registered on the 19th February, 1955, with an authorised capital of \$100,000, to encourage thrift amongst the people of the island of Nevis and to undertake, carry on and execute all kinds of financial and commercial trading.

The value of British Caribbean Currency Notes and Coin in circulation in the Colony on 31st December, 1956, was:

British Caribbean Currency Notes . . . . .	\$997,606.00
British Caribbean Coin . . . . .	\$97,750.00

The commercial Banks T.T. rates for buying and selling at 31st December, 1956, were:

	<i>Buying</i>	<i>Selling</i>
Sterling . . . . .	477·6	483
U.S. and Canadian Dollars . . . . .	71·4	73·4
	78·5	80·6
Other Foreign Currencies . . . . .	86c	89c
		<i>Guilder</i>
		<i>Notes</i>
	69·9	U.S.A. 71·9
	77·0	Canada 79·1

A Government Savings Bank is established in all three islands of the Colony under the management of the Treasurer. The amounts on deposit increased from \$953,699 in 1955 to \$995,130 at 31st December, 1956.

Ordinance No. 18/55 passed by the Legislative Council on 22nd July, 1955, amended the rate of interest payable on deposits in the Government Savings Bank as follows:

- (a) Two and a half per centum per annum on deposits not exceeding the first \$2,400 and;
- (b) Two per centum per annum on deposits exceeding the first \$2,400, but not exceeding \$4,800.

The limit of deposits was increased by \$2,400 to \$4,800 by S.R. & O. No. 15 of 1955.

## *Chapter 5: Commerce*

THE following tables show the value and quantities of goods imported into and exported from the Colony in 1955. Figures for 1956 were not yet available.

### IMPORTS

Total Imports, 1955: \$9,324,508

Principal items imported in 1955:

<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Value</i> \$	<i>Quantity</i>
Flour . . . . .	649,062	7,547,200 lb.
Fish (all kinds) . . . . .	325,010	1,069,034 lb.
Grains (all kinds) . . . . .	403,915	3,494,146 lb.
Sugar . . . . .	—	—
Timber unmanufactured . . . . .	592,468	1,944,724 ft.
Butter and Butter Substitutes . . . . .	184,770	412,498 lb.
Meat (all kinds) . . . . .	293,946	605,210 lb.
Boots and Shoes . . . . .	216,666	94,745 pr.
Cotton and Rayon Piece Goods . . . . .	409,894	777,764 yd.
Apparel . . . . .	191,188	—
Oils, Non-edible . . . . .	309,016	1,086,524 gal.

**EXPORTS****Total Exports, 1955: \$9,351,573****Principal items Exported in 1955:**

	<i>Commodity</i>	<i>Value</i> \$	<i>Quantity</i>
Sugar	.	8,114,133	46,405 tons
Molasses	.	69,140	1,017,083 gal.
Cotton	.	623,763	637,336 lb.
Salt	.	90,749	10,169,700 lb.
Copra	.	34,346	257,510 lb.

**DISTRIBUTION OF TRADE**

The following table shows the distribution of trade by sterling and non-sterling areas in 1955. Figures for 1956 were not yet available.

<i>Countries</i>	<i>Imports</i> (c.i.f. value)	<i>Domestic Exports</i> (f.o.b.)	<i>Re-Exports</i>
	(To nearest \$000)		
All Countries	9,325	9,010	341
Sterling Area	6,502	5,829	338
Non-Sterling Area	2,823	3,181	3

***Balance of Visible Trade, 1955***

	\$000
Domestic Exports	9,010
Re-Exports	341
Total Exports	9,351
Total Imports	9,325
Balance of Visible Trade	+ 26

***Chapter 6: Production*****LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE**

	<i>Acres</i>
Total land	96,000
Arable land	28,000
Land for growing tree-crops, vines or shrubs	9,000
Permanent meadow and pasture	6,000
Wood or Forest land	18,000
All other lands	35,000

There is no legislation in the Colony which deals with soil conservation and the control of cultivation on steeply sloping lands. Contour cultivation to check soil erosion is not general practice on

estates in St. Kitts, but there is a growing tendency in this direction. Government land settlements in St. Kitts and Nevis are cultivated on the contour and have been bounded with khus khus grass at 6 feet to 10 feet vertical intervals and, where necessary, storm drains on the contour have been provided.

Land in the Colony is owned as follows:

<i>Owned by</i>	<i>Arable land</i>	<i>Permanent meadow and pasture</i>	<i>Forest land</i>
Indigenous inhabitants . . .	(acres) 18,000	(acres) 3,000	(acres) 13,000
Non-indigenous inhabitants . . .	7,500	2,000	2,000
Government . . .	2,700	1,100	3,000

Most of the land in the Colony is held under freehold tenure. Two Government land settlement estates in Nevis have been allotted under freehold tenure, but all other Government settlement estates have been allotted under short-term leases or on a rental basis.

Plots on the upper lands of some estates in St. Kitts are rented to peasant cultivators on a monthly basis. Most of the estates allow their labourers to work these lands under the metayer system, one-third of the produce going to the estate in lieu of rental. On many of the estates none of the produce is taken by the owner.

Under the provisions of the Agricultural Small Holdings Act, contracts can be arranged between the owners of land and cultivators, and the provisions of the Act provide adequate security of tenure for peasants.

In Nevis many cultivators work land under the metayer system and in such cases the owners of land take one-third of the produce in lieu of rental. Other cultivators pay an annual rental in cash.

In 1951, a grant of £18,460 was obtained from Colonial Development and Welfare funds for financing a group farm pilot project in Nevis. The project is based on the thesis that optimum land useage can only be achieved if adequate capital is invested in it and if skilled control of farming operations can be secured. The objective is, therefore, to lease to a group of men a unit of land into which enough capital has been sunk to enable it to be put to the best possible use, and to subject that group, through the terms of their lease, to a degree of control sufficient to ensure that they follow good agricultural practices. Two Government land settlement estates—Cades Bay and Spring Hill—are being used for the pilot project. So far, satisfactory progress has been made with the cultivation of sugar-cane, cotton, bananas, coconuts, ground provisions and green vegetables on the properties. A start was made with the raising of livestock on the area but it was finally decided to cease operations until the pasturage could be substantially improved.

In 1955 the development of Potwork Estate was commenced along lines similar to the pilot project. So far, satisfactory progress has been made with the cultivation of sugar-cane, cotton, coconuts, ground provisions and Indian corn.

There are Government land settlements in the three islands of the Colony. In St. Kitts there are three estates (900 acres), 13 in Nevis (4,374 acres) and two in Anguilla (300 acres). Two of the estates (in Nevis) have been allotted under freehold tenure, while the other areas are held by allottees under short term leases or on a rental basis.

#### AGRICULTURE

In St. Kitts the cultivation of sugar-cane and cotton is mainly done by estates. Some food crops are produced by estates, but the bulk is grown by small cultivators. Some sugar-cane is grown by peasants, chiefly on the Government land settlement estates. In 1955 and 1956 peasants cultivated 498 and 494 acres of cane respectively. The yield of sugar in 1955 from estates' canes was 3·62 tons per acre, and from peasants' canes 3·04 tons. In 1956, the figures were 3·77 tons and 2·96 tons respectively.

In Nevis practically all cultivation is done by peasants. Only two properties are being operated on an estate basis.

In Anguilla all cultivation is done by peasants.

*Sugar.* Crop years 1954-55 and 1955-56, harvested 1955 and 1956, resulted in the following:

<i>St. Kitts</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>
Total acrea under sugar-cane . . . . .	16,000	16,000
Acreage harvested . . . . .	13,350	13,353
Total cane ground (tons) . . . . .	401,920	437,120
Total sugar produced (96 grey crystals) (tons) . . . . .	49,356	50,371
Average yield of cane per acre (tons) . . . . .	29·47	32·08
Average yield of sugar per acre (tons) . . . . .	3·62	3·77
Vacuum pan molasses produced (gal.) . . . . .	1,665,212	1,995,765

<i>Nevis</i>		
Total approximate acreage under sugar cane . . . . .	1,000	1,000
Acreage harvested . . . . .	900	666
Total cane produced (tons) . . . . .	9,507	9,224
Average yield of cane per acre (tons) . . . . .	10·56	13·85
Canes purchased by Government for shipment to St. Kitts (tons) . . . . .	8,820	9,015
Canes received at weighing station at St. Kitts (tons) . . . . .	8,431	8,702
Canes used for manufacture of musco- vado sugar, etc, (tons, approx.) . . . . .	573	209
Canes reaped but abandoned after hurricane (tons) . . . . .	114	—
Muscovado sugar produced for local consumption (tons) . . . . .	59	22
Molasses produced for local use (gal.) . . . . .	1,400	—

*Sea Island Cotton.* In Nevis and Anguilla the cotton crop is planted in September and reaped from February to April of the following year. In St. Kitts the crop had hitherto been planted in May and reaped in August-October, but following the failure of the 1955 crop the planting date was changed to August. Acreage planted and production in the crop years 1954-55 and 1955-56 were:

	1955	1956
Acreage planted . . . . .	467	
Total production of lint (lb.) . . . . .	78,564	
Total production of clean lint (lb.) . . . . .	55,612	
Total production of stains (lb.) . . . . .	22,952	
Yield of clean lint per acre (lb.) . . . . .	119	
Percentage of stains . . . . .	29.21	
<i>Nevis</i>		
Acreage planted . . . . .	3,024	3,473
Total production of lint (lb.) . . . . .	556,007	688,576
Total production of clean lint (lb.) . . . . .	461,607	574,676
Total production of stains (lb.) . . . . .	94,400	113,900
Yield of clean lint per acre (lb.) . . . . .	153	165
Percentage of stains . . . . .	16.98	16.54
<i>Anguilla</i>		
Acreage planted . . . . .	50	60
Total production of lint (lb.) . . . . .	1,588	5,463
Total production of clean lint (lb.) . . . . .	1,516	5,235
Total production of stains (lb.) . . . . .	72	228
Yield of clean lint per acre (lb.) . . . . .	31	91
Percentage of stains . . . . .	4.5	4.18

In the 1954-55 season, a larger acreage of cotton was planted in Nevis than in the previous season, and as weather conditions generally were good, the yield of the crop was better than that of the 1953-54 crop. Damage by pink bollworm was considerable. In 1955 there was 17 per cent of stains as against 11 per cent for the crop reaped in 1954. For the 1955-56 season there was a further increase in the area planted under cotton. Rainfall distribution was good and a record crop was produced. Pink bollworm damage was slightly less than in the previous year and the percentage of stains was lower. The 1954-55 cotton crop suffered from damage caused by high winds in January, 1955.

In St. Kitts 467 acres of cotton were planted for the 1954-55 crop. This was about the same acreage that was planted for the previous crop. The crop was planted from the 1st May and turned out to be a failure. It was seriously affected by drought during the early part of its life, by heavy rains during the picking period and by the pink bollworm. The percentage of stains was high and amounted to 29 per cent of the crop.

The 1954-55 cotton crop in Anguilla was very poor owing to weather conditions: the 1955-56 crop was a very good one.

*Food Crops.* The following crops are grown in the Colony for local consumption: sweet potatoes, yams, cassava, Indian corn,

tannias, dasheen, eddoes, pigeon peas, blackeye peas, beans, green vegetables (tomatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, onion, egg plant, beet, lettuce, etc.).

The following are estimates of annual acreage and production:

	<i>Acreages</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Millet and Sorghum .	.	140
Maize . . . . .	.	1,000
Edible dry beans .	.	600
Edible dry peas .	.	600
Groundnuts .	.	30
Bananas and plantains .	.	300
Sweet potatoes (including yams). .	.	2,200
Breadfruit . . . . .	.	150
Fruit trees (mango, avocado pear, soursop, etc.) .	.	800
Cassava . . . . .	.	1,000
	<i>Production</i>	<i>Long Tons</i>
Millet and Sorghum .	.	43
Maize (shelled grain) .	.	400
Edible dry beans .	.	50
Edible dry peas .	.	150
Cassava .	.	900
Sweet potatoes (including yams). .	.	5,000

*Coconuts.* The area under coconuts in Nevis is estimated at 680 acres. Exports of copra to Barbados were as follows: 1955—113 tons, 1956—132 tons. In 1955 18,570 dry nuts were exported and 12,000 in 1956.

### *Processing*

*St. Kitts.* In St. Kitts there is only one sugar factory operating. This is owned by the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory Ltd., a company which is registered in the United Kingdom.

There are four privately-owned cotton ginneries in St. Kitts. In recent years cotton production has been considerably reduced on the island and the output of the ginneries has been small. Output of the ginneries in 1955 was as shown in the following table. There was none in 1956 following the change in the planting date of cotton.

### *Output of the Ginneries, St. Kitts*

	<i>1955</i>	
	<i>Clean lint</i>	<i>Stains</i>
Spooners Cotton Factory -	28,033 lbs.	11,633
Estridge Ginnery . .	74,137 lbs.	33,235
Stonefort Ginnery . .	3,443 lbs.	1,213
West Farm Ginnery . .	Did not operate	

The Spooners Cotton Factory operates an oil extraction plant which produces a small quantity of refined cotton seed oil for local use. The residue of cotton seed cake is sold as meal for feeding to livestock. Cotton seed purchased by Spooners Cotton Factory amounted to:

	1955		1956	
	Prime seed	2nd quality seed	Prime seed	2nd quality seed
Nevis Ginnery :	tons	tons	tons	tons
St. Kitts Ginneries :	329.99	66.03	521.87	—
	49.13	11.23	16.71	—
Price paid per ton . .	\$	\$	\$	\$
	50.00	25.00	50.00	25.00

Cooking oil manufactured by this factory totalled 11,325 gallons of refined cotton seed oil in 1955, and 12,350 in 1956.

In St. Kitts the Government owns a plant for processing Indian corn. It consists of a drier, and sheller and mill which are used to a limited extent each year. Indian corn is only cultivated on a very small scale by the estates in St. Kitts, but the Agricultural Department has been able to purchase some shelled corn from Nevis, Barbuda and Montserrat for cracking and sale as animal feed. In 1955 and 1956, 21,527 lb. of shelled corn and 8,092 lb. of cob corn were produced.

*Nevis.* In Nevis the Government owns two very old sugar works at the New River and Hamilton settlements. At these, muscovado sugar and syrup are manufactured from peasants' canes for local consumption. These plants are operated by the peasants with paid labour under the supervision of an Agricultural Instructor. The plant on the Hamilton settlement has not been used for the last four years because of broken machinery. Approximately 59 tons of muscovado sugar and 1,400 gallons of syrup were manufactured at the New River plant in 1955 and 22 tons of muscovado sugar in 1956.

There is one cotton ginnery in Nevis. This is owned by the Government and operated by the Marketing Department. Output in 1955 and 1956 was as follows:

#### *Output of Nevis Ginnery*

	Clean lint		Stains		Seed
	Bales	lbs.	Bales	lbs.	Sold for crushing
1955 . .	923	461,607	189	94,700	397.62 tons
1956 . .	1,148	574,676	228	113,900	525.35 tons

There is a small corn mill in Nevis owned by the Government and operated on one of the land settlement estates. At this mill Indian corn is converted into meal for peasants at a nominal charge. In 1955, 4,993 lb. of cornmeal and 288 lb. of cracked corn were prepared for small cultivators and in 1956, 3,308 lb. of cornmeal and 1,926 lb. of cracked corn.

*Anguilla.* In Anguilla there is one cotton ginnery which is owned and operated by Messrs. C. Rey & Co. Output in 1955 and 1956 was:

*Output of the Anguilla Ginnery*

	<i>Clean lint</i>		<i>Stains</i>	
	<i>Bales</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>Bales</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
1955	6	1,516	1	72
1956	21	5,235	1	228

### *Marketing*

The sugar crop is marketed by the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory Ltd. through its London agents. In 1955 the Factory's quota of 31,248 tons of raw sugar was sold to the Ministry of Food at the negotiated price of £40 15s. 0d. per ton including £2 15s. 0d. per ton payable to the St. Kitts Government as special funds for price stabilisation, rehabilitation and labour welfare. The remainder of the crop, after allowing for local sales, was sold in the open market and averaged about £10 per ton less than the negotiated price. The average price received for the crop was £34 12s. 2d. per ton f.o.b. The total price paid by the Factory to contractors for canes was \$12·80 per ton. Outside suppliers received \$10·56 per ton. The price of grey crystal sugar for local consumption was controlled at ·08 cents per lb. There was no control price for washed sugar. The value of the molasses exported was £25,189.

In 1956, the Factory's quota of 31,354 tons of raw sugar was sold to the Ministry of Food at the negotiated price of £40 15s. 0d. per ton including £2 15s. 0d. per ton payable to the St. Kitts Government in respect of the special funds referred to above. The remainder of the crop, after allowing for local sales, was sold on the open market and averaged about £8 10s. 0d. less than the negotiated price. The average price received for the crop was £35 5s. 3d. per ton f.o.b. The total price paid by the Factory to contractors for canes was \$12·21 per ton. Outside suppliers received \$10·56 per ton. The value of the molasses exported was £46,492.

The cotton crop in St. Kitts is marketed as baled lint through local agents. In 1955, the crop was sold to spinners in the United Kingdom at \$1·12 per lb., f.o.b. St. Kitts, and a price of \$1·06 per lb. was obtained from the same buyers for the 1956 crop. These prices are for clean lint, Grade 1.

In Nevis the peasants' cane and cotton crops are marketed by the Agricultural Department. Government collects a marketing commission of 4 per cent on the gross proceeds from sales of cotton lint and seed and 1 per cent on the proceeds from sales of canes.

Purchases and prices of the cane and cotton crops for 1955 and 1956 were as shown in the following tables:

### Sugar Cane

	<i>Quantity purchased by Marketing Dept. for shipment to St. Kitts</i>	<i>Price paid for canes by St. Kitts Factory</i>	<i>Price paid to growers by Marketing Dept. (at scales)</i>
	<i>Tons</i>	\$	\$
1955	8,881	12.48	9.48
1956	9,015	11.88	8.86

### Cotton

	<i>Clean seed cotton purchased by Marketing Dept.</i>	<i>Price paid to growers</i>	<i>Stains</i>	<i>Price paid to growers</i>
	<i>lb.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>c.</i>
1955 . .	1,344,639	32.5	274,286	10
1956 . .	1,614,917	30.5	296,131	9

The average price obtained in the United Kingdom for clean lint marketed by the Agricultural Department was \$1.10 per lb. in 1955 and \$1.05 per lb. in 1956.

In Anguilla the peasants sold their seed cotton to Messrs. C. Rey & Co. and received 28 cents per lb. for clean seed cotton in 1955 and 28 cents per lb. in 1956.

### Agricultural Department

The principal members of the staff of the Agricultural Department at 21st December, 1956, comprised:

#### St. Kitts

The Agricultural Superintendent (Acting)

Two Agricultural Assistants

A Land Officer and Cotton Inspector

A Senior Agricultural Instructor

Two Agricultural Instructors

The Foreman, Experimental Station

The Manager, Livestock and Dairy Farm

*Nevis*

The Agricultural Officer  
 The Marketing Officer  
 The Agricultural Engineer  
 A Senior Marketing Assistant  
 Four Marketing Assistants  
 The Foreman, Experimental Station  
 The Land Officer  
 The Cotton Inspector

*Anguilla*

A Senior Agricultural Instructor  
 The Foreman, Agricultural Station

**Agricultural policy of the Colony is:**

- (1) The conservation of soil and the maintenance and improvement of soil fertility.
- (2) The control of pests and diseases of crops.
- (3) The improvement of peasant agriculture in the Colony.
- (4) The development of livestock industries in St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla.
- (5) The improvement of crop yields by the introduction of new and better varieties of crop plants and by the improvement of manurial and cultivation practices.
- (6) The encouragement of the production of local food crops.

*Efforts to Improve Production*

*Sugar Cane.* The Agricultural Department conducts varietal, manurial, spacing and cultivation experiments with sugar-cane each year in co-operation with the research committee of the St. Kitts Sugar Association and the owners and managers of estates. The experiments are laid down on the estates by officers of the Department and planted, manured and reaped under the supervision of these officers. The results of the experiments are printed and published annually. A small number of cuttings of new cane varieties is received each year by the Department from the British West Indies Central Sugar-Cane Breeding Station at Barbados. These are planted at the Government Experimental Station and here the varieties are multiplied for planting observation plots on estates and nurseries and thus obtaining sufficient planting material for varietal trials. The Government of the Colony makes an annual contribution to the Central Sugar-Cane Breeding Station at Barbados.

*Cotton.* Multiplication plots are planted each year in St. Kitts and Nevis with pedigree seed which was formerly obtained from the cotton station in Montserrat, but more recently from the Central Cotton Research Station in Antigua, for maintaining the purity of the seed which is used for planting the commercial crops in the two islands.

*Food Crops.* In St. Kitts an Agricultural Assistant is employed on advisory and demonstration work among the peasants who grow food crops on the upper lands of estates. The work of this officer has resulted in an increase in the present yields of crops which are grown on these upper land areas.

Agricultural extension work in the Colony has been limited owing to the lack of trained personnel on the staff of the Department. Within the last two years three officers have returned after completing a course of training at the British Caribbean Farm Institute and in a few years' time the position should be greatly improved.

Credit facilities are provided by Government for peasants in St. Kitts and Nevis to enable them to obtain their requirements of artificial manures, insecticides and agricultural tools. These facilities have now been extended to enable peasants in Anguilla to obtain supplies of fencing wire for their paddocks on easy terms.

#### ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Statistics of livestock are set out in the following table:

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Mules</i>	<i>Donkeys</i>	<i>Swine</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Goats</i>	<i>Poultry</i>
St. Kitts .	3,175	301	373	613	1,003	670	392	5,518
Nevis .	2,406	371	130	1,048	1,829	3,548	2,251	9,886
Anguilla .	813	10	2	118	823	2,752	1,563	4,096
<b>TOTAL .</b>	<b>6,394</b>	<b>682</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>1,779</b>	<b>3,655</b>	<b>6,970</b>	<b>4,206</b>	<b>19,500</b>

Livestock are distributed as follows:

#### *St. Kitts*

	<i>No.</i>
Cattle owned by estates . . . . .	657
Cattle owned by labourers . . . . .	1,134
Cattle owned by Government . . . . .	143
Cattle on Government Settlements . . . . .	50
Cattle owned by peasants and others . . . . .	1,214

Horses are almost entirely owned by estates and the majority of mules, donkeys, swine, sheep and goats are owned by peasants.

#### *Nevis*

Apart from the Maddens cattle breeding scheme, which is operated by the Government, some livestock on Government settlements, and livestock on three privately owned estates, all classes of livestock are owned by the peasantry.

*Anguilla*

The majority of livestock on the island is owned by the peasantry.

The only production figures available are those for hides and skins which are cured locally and exported; exports in 1955 were valued at about £322. Production, apart from Government centres, is in the hands of peasants and is entirely for local consumption. There are no companies concerned with animal production.

*Veterinary Department*

The Department consists of one Veterinary Officer, one Stock Inspector and a Clerical Assistant. The policy of the department is directed towards increasing livestock production by means of the diagnosis and control of animal diseases, and the improvement of animal husbandry methods. Work during the year was mainly concerned with parasite control, tuberculosis eradication, enzootic colic, and laboratory work on exports, imports, supervision and slaughter of livestock.

**FORESTRY**

There is no forestry department in the Colony. The forest areas in St. Kitts and Nevis are regarded entirely as protective forests and very little exploitation is allowed. In St. Kitts there is a Forestry Board which controls the work of protecting the forest areas. The Government employs a Forest Guard and three forest rangers whose work is supervised by an Agricultural Assistant. There is also a Forestry Board in Nevis whose chairman is the Agricultural Officer. Protection of the forest areas is carried out by a Forest Guard and two forest rangers.

**FISHERIES**

A Fisheries Officer was appointed in 1956 and works in conjunction with the Agricultural Department.

**MINING**

The ownership of mineral rights is vested in the Crown. No mining was carried on in the Colony during the period under review.

**CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

The Nevis Co-operative Bank was started in 1955.

## *Chapter 7: Social Services*

### **EDUCATION**

IN 1955 the chief functions of the Education Officer were performed by the Administrative Secretary for Social Services, and the Member for Social Services was consulted on all matters affecting educational policy. In 1956 under the Ministerial system the Minister for Social Services assumed administrative control of the Education Department and became responsible for the educational policy of the Colony.

In November, 1956, an Education Officer was appointed as Head of the Education Department, his duty being to advise the Minister on educational policy and to co-ordinate the educational activities of the Colony. The other executive officers of the Department are the Inspector of Schools and two Educational District Officers (one stationed in each of the islands of Nevis and Anguilla).

The Inspector of Schools is responsible for the direct management of primary and senior schools and the Educational District Officers are his assistants. The primary schools are inspected annually and reports are forwarded to the teachers in charge for guidance and as a means of effecting improvement where necessary.

The secondary schools are under the management of their respective Principals who communicate direct with the Administrator on matters affecting their schools.

In the period under review little progress has been possible in achieving the immediate aims of the declared policy of the Department. These are the provision of :

- (a) adequate accommodation for all children of school age ;
- (b) selection and training of a greater number of teachers for service in the schools;
- (c) teachers and schools, to the extent to which resources permit, for adolescent children within the general school age, giving a general education based on and made realistic by practical activities;
- (d) opportunities for vocational and professional training;
- (e) opportunities for adult education.

The chief obstacles to progress have been lack of technicians to pursue the school-building programme upon which the re-organisation of schools depends; and shortage of qualified teachers and inability to attract suitable recruits to the teaching service.

The Government provides free primary education for all the children between the ages of 5 and 15 plus, and school attendance is compulsory for pupils up to 13 years of age.

Secondary education is available to children between the ages of 11-19 who pass an entrance examination or a scholarship examination. Scholarship winners attend these schools free of cost; other pupils pay modest fees. The maximum fee at any Government secondary school is \$50.40 per year. There are 58 Government scholarships to secondary schools.

### *Expenditure*

The cost of education in 1955 and 1956 was as follows:

	1955	1956
<i>Recurrent Expenditure</i>	\$	\$
Administration . . .	18,394	16,889
Primary and Senior . . .	317,475	382,563
Secondary . . .	57,333	86,217
<i>Capital Expenditure</i>		
New Buildings . . .	61,574	40,014
	<hr/> 454,776	<hr/> 525,683

In 1955 the amount spent on education was 10·3 per cent of total expenditure in the Colony and in 1956, 10·5 per cent.

### *Pre-Primary and Primary Schools*

A play centre in Basseterre for 24 children was maintained from Government funds, while in the rural areas there are two pre-primary schools, one owned by the Methodist Church, the other by the Moravian Church. Small grants-in-aid are paid in support of these denominational schools.

There were 33 Government primary schools in the Colony with an enrolment of 11,102 pupils for whom education was entirely free; 320 teachers (including 92 pupil teachers) were employed in these schools. In the majority of them there is serious overcrowding.

There are two senior schools in the Colony and two senior departments attached to the secondary schools in Nevis and Anguilla. These schools, with a more enlightened curriculum and facilities for practical work, have proved the necessity of providing a sufficient number of similar schools throughout the Colony to cater for pupils over the age of 11. At the end of 1956 there were 4,272 pupils over 11 years of age attending Primary Schools.

### *Secondary Schools*

In St. Kitts there are separate Government schools for boys and girls, and a mixed denominational school. In Nevis and Anguilla there are mixed schools. Courses in the secondary schools generally lead to the overseas School Certificate of Cambridge University. At

the Boys' Grammar School, the Higher School Certificate Examination is taken, on the results of which the Leeward Islands Scholarship is awarded. Pupils from any other secondary school in the Colony who have passed the School Certificate Examination are eligible for admission to the VIth Form of the Boys Grammar School to take the course leading to the Higher School Certificate.

### *Higher Education*

The Government contributed to the cost of the University College of the West Indies. The Government also awarded two scholarships to secondary teachers to take degree courses at the University College. Two agricultural scholarships to the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad were awarded to candidates from the Colony.

### *Teachers' Training Institutions*

The Colony contributed an annual sum to the Spring Gardens Training College of Antigua where its female primary school teachers received training. In 1955 four teachers were sent to Spring Gardens; none was sent in 1956. Three male teachers were sent to Erdiston Training College, Barbados, in 1955 and two in 1956. A male teacher and a female teacher received training in woodwork and home economics respectively in Puerto Rico. Locally arranged courses continued to be held in methods of teaching infant and junior school pupils until April, 1956, when the tutor returned to the United Kingdom.

### *Adult Education*

The University College of the West Indies, through its Department of Extra-Mural Studies, of which the Leeward Islands Office has been situated in Basseterre since April, 1956, has inaugurated a series of training courses. Each year, two-week courses (residential whenever possible) are offered to Civil Servants, teachers, and supervisory management. At those times, and during the annual Leeward Islands Drama Festival, the Extra-Mural Department encourages people from all the Leeward territories to come and work together under the auspices of the University College of the West Indies. In Basseterre, under the Chairmanship of the Resident Tutor, there is a monthly discussion of West Indian Affairs based on written papers previously circulated, and, as in Charlestown, Nevis, the Extra-Mural Department provides weekly programmes of talks, debates, or music.

### *School Buildings and Equipment*

Nine of the Government primary schools were housed in buildings which are the property of Government. Six of these are fine schools built with funds provided under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act since 1945.

The remaining schools are rented from various religious denominations. Most of the school-buildings are seriously overcrowded and

many of them are unsuitable. No primary school was built in the period 1955-1956 and the construction of the new Boys' Grammar School in Basseterre, begun in 1954, was still far from completion at end of 1956.

A handicraft block was added to the secondary school in Anguilla in 1955 and school latrines have been built at rented schools at Government expense.

#### *Extra-Curricular Activities*

Clubs continue to function in primary and secondary schools. The activities of these are varied and include thrift societies, literary and debating clubs, nature study walks, etc. The pupils themselves play a great part in the management of these clubs and so receive training in leadership.

The woodwork centre in Basseterre continued to cater for classes from the primary schools, Basseterre, and the Boys' Grammar School. The standard of woodwork has shown improvement. Two fully qualified instructresses give training in domestic science and handicrafts to senior pupils of the primary schools.

The Information Department of the Colonial Office continued to supply films, film strips and British newsreels. Most schools have the opportunity of an occasional film show.

#### *Education Statistics*

	Number of Schools, 1956					
	Public Schools			Independent Schools (Assisted and Non-Assisted)		
	Boys	Girls	Mixed	Boys	Girls	Mixed
Primary Secondary . .	3 1	3 1	27 2	—	—	9 1

	Number of Teachers, 1956			
	Public Schools		Independent Schools (Assisted and Non-Assisted)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Primary Schools Secondary Schools . .	112 18	208 8	21 —	16 6

	<i>Number of Pupils, 1956</i>			
	<i>Boys</i>		<i>Girls</i>	
	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Average Attendance</i>	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Average Attendance</i>
<i>Public Schools</i>				
Primary Schools .	5,603	4,330	5,499	4,353
Secondary Schools.	297	286	372	353
<i>Independent Schools</i>				
Primary Schools .	408	328	449	375
Secondary Schools.	88	85	114	113

### PUBLIC HEALTH

The year 1955 saw the opening of the treponematoses project and the environmental sanitation programme both under the guidance and material assistance of WHO and UNICEF. Work under these schemes continued into 1956 and was still in progress at the end of that year. The issue of dried milk under the nutrition programme continued and through the generosity of UNICEF the supply is to be maintained until 1958. There was only one death from typhoid fever in the colony during 1955 and none in 1956. There were 20 deaths from tuberculosis in 1955 and only eight in 1956.

The infant mortality rate in 1955 fell still further while the birthrate rose.

No new health centres were opened during 1955 and 1956, but in Charlestown, Nevis, the site was chosen for a new one and work was put in hand at the end of 1956.

The training of staff continued during 1955 and 1956 in general nursing and midwifery, venereal disease control, sanitary engineering, water supplies, sanitary inspection, food inspection, insect control, B.C.G. vaccination and laboratory technique.

### Vital Statistics

		<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>
Population (mid-year estimate)	.	53,982	54,841
Births	.	2,494	2,418
Birth rate per 1,000	.	46·2	44
Stillbirths	.	83	74
Deaths	.	666	602
Crude death rate per 1,000	.	12·3	11·0
Deaths under 1 year	.	168	125
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	.	67·3	51·6

*Deaths from Principal Causes*

The following table shows deaths from and death rates for the most common causes:

Cause	1955		1956	
	Number of Deaths	Death rate per 1,000	Number of Deaths	Death rate per 1,000
Heart Disease . . . . .	87	1·61	67	1·21
Diseases of early infancy . . . . .	82	1·51	65	1·17
Apoplexy . . . . .	79	1·46	59	1·07
Gastro-enteritis and Colitis . . . . .	61	1·13	55	0·99
Respiratory diseases . . . . .	57	1·05	50	0·90
Senility . . . . .	53	0·98	66	1·10
Cancer . . . . .	46	0·85	51	0·92
Accidents and violence . . . . .	32	0·59	21	0·38
Tuberculosis . . . . .	20	0·37	9	0·16
Deficiency diseases . . . . .	14	0·25	16	0·29
Nephritis . . . . .	14	0·25	10	0·18
Maternal deaths . . . . .	13	5·21*	10	0·50*
Dysentery . . . . .	7	0·12	3	0·05
Syphilis . . . . .	6	0·11	8	0·14
Alcoholism . . . . .	4	0·07	9	0·16

\* per 1,000 live births.

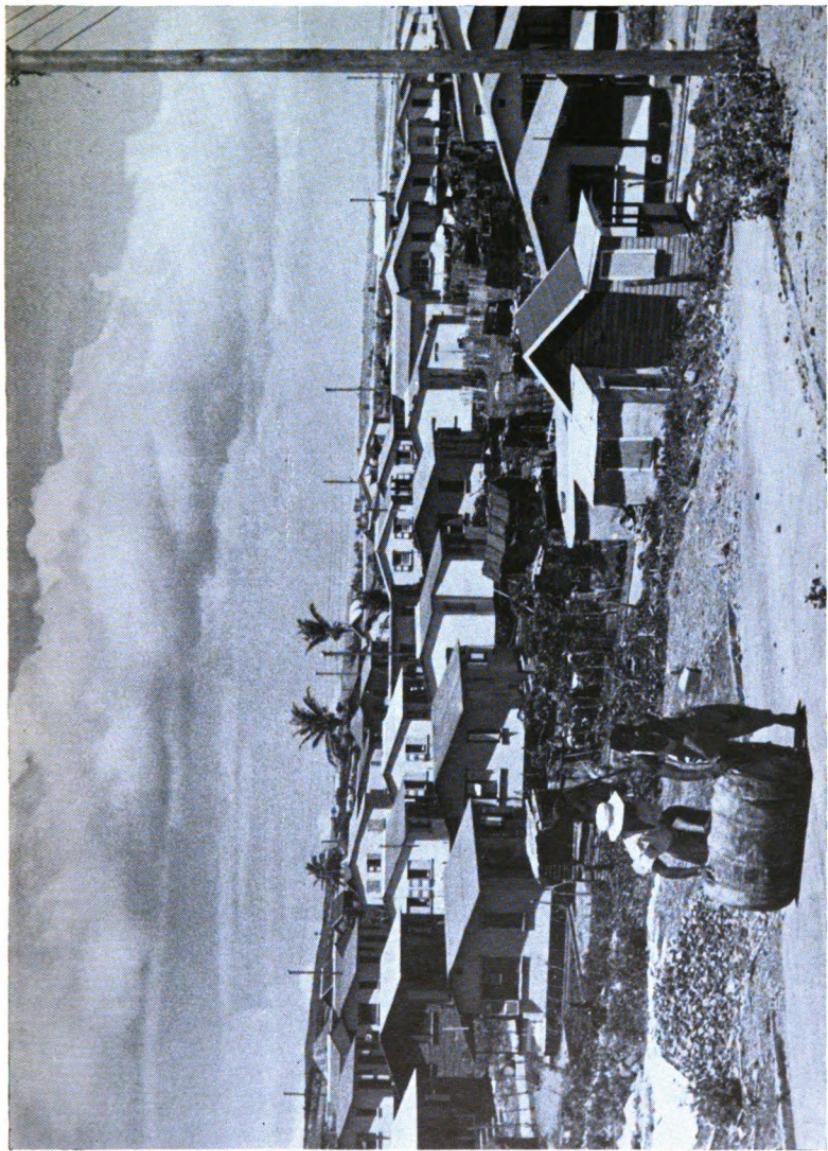
*Main Problems*

The following table sets out the major services, the problems arising in respect of each and the proposed methods of dealing with them.

Service	Major Problem	Programme
Environmental Sanitation	Contaminated water supply. Many houses have no privy. Fly breeding. Contamination of milk and other foods. Inadequate housing and overcrowding.	Programme approved and assisted by UNICEF and WHO: improved water supply. Supervision of sources. Regular sampling. Private latrine programme. Improved disposal of waste. Insect control (D.D.T.). Milk and food sanitation.
Health Education	Ignorance of elementary sanitation, personal hygiene, infant care, nutrition, and nature of disease.	Work of Public Health Nurses and Sanitary Inspectors. Talks by trained staff. Film shows. Press releases. Leaflets. Posters. Joint meetings of Education and Health Staff. Boards of Health.

[Agnes & Eric Skerritt]

*Two-bedroom houses with Arcon roofs built by aided self-help at Saddlers Housing Development Scheme.*



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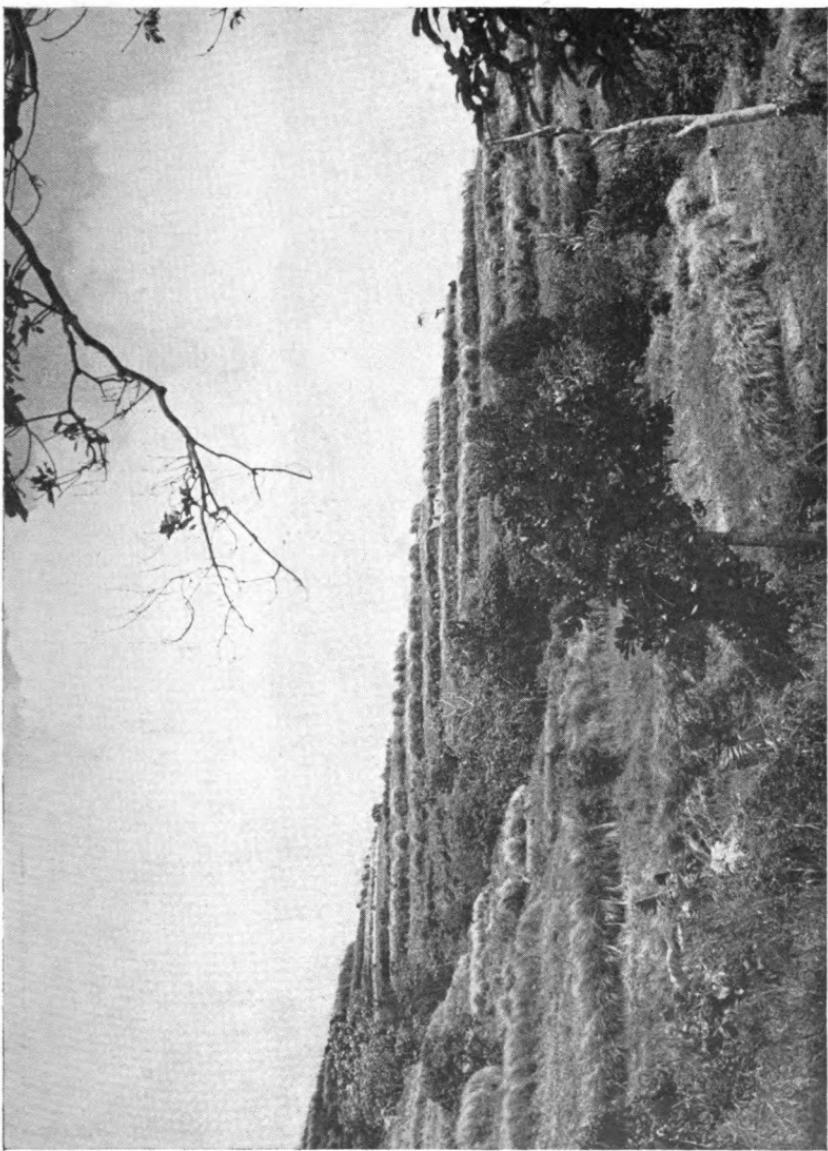
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[Agnes & Eric Skerrit]

*The new Education Centre in Basseterre under construction.*





[Agnes & Eric Skerritt]

*Soil conservation work at Bayfords Dairy Farm, St. Kitts.*



[Agnes & Eric Skerritt]

*Police headquarters, Basseterre.*



[Agnes & Eric Skerritt]

*War Memorial, Basseterre.*

<i>Service</i>	<i>Major Problem</i>	<i>Programme</i>
Nutrition	Deaths and general ill-health from nutritional causes. Diets deficient in protein, vitamins A and B complex, calcium and iron.	Home production of green and yellow vegetables. Scientific investigation. Education of adults and the young. UNICEF skimmed milk and United Kingdom surplus evaporated milk feeding programme.
Maternal and Child Health	High infant death rate from bad sanitation and wrong and filthy feeding. Untrained midwives. Eclampsia.	Environmental sanitation. Nutrition programme. Pre-natal and child welfare clinics of Public Health Nurses. Training of midwives.
School Health	Uncleanliness, malnutrition, dental caries, ulcers, yaws, ignorance of hygiene. Over-crowded and insanitary school premises.	Visits by Public Health Nurses. Nutrition programme: milk, school gardening, school dental service, periodic eye testing. Monthly joint meetings of Health and Education Staff. UNICEF aid with sanitary facilities in schools.
Mental Health	Psychoneuroses. Obsolete legislation. Little treatment.	Work of Public Health Nurses. Modern legislation.
Communicable Diseases	Diseases of insanitation. Tuberculosis. Venereal diseases and yaws. Leprosy.	Environmental sanitation. Immunisation. Case finding. Isolation.
Tuberculosis control	Several thousands of tuberculin-positive persons awaiting X-Ray. Lack of specialist service.	Early finding and hospitalisation of as many infectious cases as possible and treatment of remainder at home. B.C.G. vaccination. Mass radiography. Contact tracing.
Venereal Disease	Syphilis, Yaws.	Prompt and effective treatment and instruction at free clinics. Contact tracing. UNICEF/WHO house-to-house single-injection penicillin campaign.
Dental Health	Dental caries, public ignorance and apathy.	More pre-school dentistry. Gradual abolition of present policy of mass extraction on adults.

### *Medical Department and Policy*

The medical and health services are provided entirely by the Government. They are administered by a Senior Medical Officer who is chairman of the Central Board of Health, which directs the work of the five local Boards of Health. The Health Department is organised into three main divisions—administration, hospitals, and district services, which comprise medical, dental, dispensing, public health nursing and sanitation services.

The defined functions of the Department are the care of the sick; the maintenance of institutions for the aged and infirm; the recording of statistics for planning preventive work; the supervision of the health of expectant mothers and children; the improvement of

nutritional health, sanitary surroundings, mental health and dental health; the control of communicable diseases; the development of services to control chronic diseases; the development of laboratory facilities; the training of staff; and the dissemination of health information to the public.

### *Staff and Expenditure*

There are 14 registered medical practitioners of whom 12 are Government Officers and two are private practitioners; seven of the Government Medical Officers are allowed private practice. There are four nurses with senior training, 35 certificated nurses, 55 student nurses; four midwives with senior training; 54 certificated midwives; 17 sanitary inspectors, five laboratory and X-Ray technicians and eight pharmacists employed by the Government. In addition there are three private certificated nurses, nine private certificated midwives and seven private pharmacists.

### *Expenditure on Hospitals and Institutions*

		1955 Actual \$	1956 Estimated \$
Cunningham Hospital . . . . .		171,480·00	293,709·00
Alexandra Hospital . . . . .		56,364·00	84,896·00
Pogson Hospital . . . . .		8,882·00	13,658·00
Cottage Hospital . . . . .		11,073·00	15,954·00
Leprosarium . . . . .		12,630·00	17,769·00
Mental Patients . . . . .		22,475·00	21,878·00
Infirmarys . . . . .		28,876·00	42,874·00
	<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>311,780·00</b>	<b>490,738·00</b>
<b>Public Health, Head XIII . . . . .</b>		<b>274,184·00</b>	<b>330,448·00</b>
Total expenditure of Health Department .		585,964·00	821,186·00
Expenditure by Public Works Department on health projects . . . . .		18,455·00	26,200·00
Total expenditure from Colony funds . .		604,419·00	847,386·00
Assistance from United Kingdom Govern- ment . . . . .		4,685·00	5,284·00
Assistance from International Organisa- tions . . . . .		14,924·00	156,834·00
Total expenditure from all sources on Public Health . . . . .		\$624,028·00	\$1,009,504·00
Per capita expenditure on public health .		11·48	18·23
Percentage of Colony health expenditure to total budget . . . . .		14·18	15·65

### *Medical Facilities*

There are two general hospitals, equipped to deal adequately with all general medical and surgical cases, the Cunningham Hospital (116 beds) in St. Kitts, and the Alexandra Hospital (40 beds) in Nevis. There are, in addition, two cottage hospitals with 24 beds.

The Cunningham Hospital is under the charge of a whole-time Medical Superintendent, qualified in surgery. He is also in charge of the Cardin Home, the main institution for the care of the aged and infirm, where there are five rooms for the temporary care of mental patients awaiting transfer to the mental hospital in Antigua. The Cunningham Hospital is the principal centre for the training of nurses and dispensers, and the main laboratory is there. The other hospitals and institutions (total capacity 35), and also a leprosarium (17 patients) are under the care of District Medical Officers, the various hospitals have accommodation for about one-fifth of all confinements.

Apart from the seven District Medical Officers, who furnish free medical attention to the children of workers and certain other groups, a combined service of medical care and preventive medicine is provided by a chain of 22 health centres and outposts throughout the three islands of St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla. Each rural health centre is staffed by a District Medical Officer, a Public Health Nurse and a Midwife. Two dentists attend to children, expectant mothers and labourers. There are 13 sanitary districts in the Colony, each with its own Sanitary Inspector. Serving under the Chief Sanitary Inspector, there are a Supervising Sanitary Inspector and eight Sanitary Inspectors in St. Kitts, a Supervising Sanitary Inspector and three Sanitary Inspectors in Nevis and one Sanitary Inspector in Anguilla.

#### HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

In St. Kitts some improvement in housing is shown by the availability of land for development and the construction of new and better homes in both urban and rural areas.

As a result of the prefabrication of timber buildings by the Central Housing and Planning Authority, the number of "Trash Houses" (mountain lumber covered with cane leaves) has been greatly reduced: it is envisaged that this form of assistance will continue. By the end of 1956, 92 units had been erected and occupied.

In the Parish of Christ Church a new village was developed by the Central Housing and Planning Authority; this comprises 91 building lots with an approximate area of 11 acres. All roads have been colassed and the installations of pipe-borne water and electricity supply has also been completed.

Seventy-two building lots have been used for the resiting of houses owned chiefly by agricultural and manual workers; these houses have been removed from unsuitable sites. Eighteen lots have been reserved for aided self-help houses, seven of which have already been constructed.

The introduction of Aided Self-Help has assisted considerably in the execution of the housing programme. This activity is also responsible for promoting and improving inter-relationships within the community, which in time is reflected in the increased pace of construction on all development sites.

The seventh development project to be undertaken by the Central Housing and Planning Authority was commenced early in 1956 at Cayon in the Parish of St. Mary. This scheme provides for 115 building lots, and the installation of pipe-borne water and an electricity supply. It covers an area of approximately 11 acres including open spaces. Thirty-three lots are reserved for aided self-help houses, nine lots for combine dwelling and business places and the remainder for resiting houses from the adjacent hills and ravines.

The aided self-help houses are built to a standard design of two bedrooms, a living room, kitchen, shower, porch and outside latrine. The walls are of hollow concrete block, 6 inches thick; floors are of wood in bedrooms and concrete elsewhere, and the roof is the "Arcon" simple purlin type, consisting of tubular steel purlins to which the galvanised iron roofing sheets are bolted. Windows are the tropical louvred steel type.

The site development of Greenlands Housing Scheme is practically completed and the construction of houses is now in progress.

One thousand and thirty-five loans totalling \$923,000 were financed through the Labour Welfare Funds up to the end of 1956.

Distribution of these loans was as follows:

	No.	Amount
		\$
St. Kitts . . .	1,012	901,900
Nevis : : :	18	15,900
Anguilla : : :	5	5,200
	<hr/> 1,035	<hr/> \$923,000

The following table shows the number of aided self-help and prefabricated sectional houses built by the Central Housing and Planning Authority in 1955 and 1956 (no new houses were built in Nevis and Anguilla):

	1955 1956	
Concrete block houses by Aided Self-Help:		
Completed . . . . .	50	36
In Progress . . . . :	67	48
Prefabricated Sectional houses : :	32	35

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

There has been expansion in all spheres of welfare activity, especially in St. Kitts where a clerk, a Home Demonstration Officer and two part-time Probation Officers have been added to the staff of three. There is a part-time Relieving Officer in Nevis and work there and in Anguilla has been chiefly confined to poor relief, pension payments and the giving out of milk.

The Relieving Officer, St. Kitts, was sent on a six month probation and social welfare course in Jamaica under a Colonial Development and Welfare training scheme. The Community Development Officer

attended certain classes of the eight-week Home Economics Course given by the F.A.O. Area Supervisor at which the Home Demonstration Officer was one of the chief assistants. The Home Demonstration Officer spent four days in Antigua at the Homes and Gardens Festival.

Close contact has been established and maintained with voluntary organisations, whose activities have expanded, and assistance and encouragement given whenever possible.

A great deal of investigation has been done on behalf of local and outside agencies. More and more people are coming to the Department with their personal problems, many of them concerning emigration to the United Kingdom and involving investigation in the Colony or abroad. Transport, lodging and shipment have been arranged for an increasing number of destitute repatriates from the Dominican Republic. Magazines from the British Council have been distributed to institutions and reading rooms in urban and rural areas.

Lecture demonstrations have been given throughout the three islands by students from the F.A.O. Home Economics Course. A small prefabricated house, provided by the Central Housing Authority and furnished by the students, was demonstrated in Basseterre and in country districts.

Visits were paid by the Community Development and Home Demonstration Officers to families in new housing areas in town and country districts. Subsequently home improvement classes were held for 32 young girls four times a week in Cayon and Molyneux. Among the subjects included in the six-month course were: nutrition, home food production, housing and sanitation, management and family relations. The students were encouraged to spread what they had learnt amongst their own communities and most of them showed keen interest in their studies.

At the conclusion of the above course a Homes and Families Week was held at Molyneux School. Speakers included Ministers, officers from the Health, Education and Welfare Departments and the Extra-Mural Tutor of the University College of the West Indies. Appropriate films were shown during the week and there were talks on housing, agriculture, child care, health and sanitation, food and nutrition and community development. The Central Housing Authority's home demonstration house, with home-made furniture, was on show in the village during the week. The objects of the Week were to stress the importance of good family living, to encourage families to work towards self-improvement and to help them to cope more satisfactorily with the problems of everyday life.

There has been a substantial increase in youth activities of all kinds in the three islands, which the Department has encouraged. Empire Youth Sunday is observed throughout the Colony on a larger scale each year. The Boys Brigade Movement has expanded rapidly, and financial assistance helped to bring an organiser from Jamaica to assist with training. The Girl Guide Movement has increased its activities in the three islands, and the Boy Scouts to a lesser degree.

*Expenditure*

Funds provided for social welfare purposes during the period under review included the following:

	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>
	\$	\$
Social Welfare Expenses . . . . .	1,600	2,400
Blind Welfare . . . . .	840	840
Expenses of Probation Officer . . . . .	600	1,080
Total . . . . .	<u>\$5,040</u>	<u>\$7,320</u>

*Relief and Pensions*

Much of the Department's time was taken up with the payment of poor relief and pensions, on a fortnightly basis, and with the investigation of applications for relief.

The amounts provided for outdoor relief in the Colony were as follows:

	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>
	\$	\$
St. Kitts . . . . .	18,900	22,500
Nevis . . . . .	4,800	5,000
Anguilla . . . . .	1,920	2,000
Total . . . . .	<u>\$25,620</u>	<u>\$29,500</u>

Average rates per fortnight were: children 50 cents, adults 85 cents, blind persons \$1·50. Ex-lepers received \$2·88 fortnightly from the vote for them.

The number of persons on relief were:

	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>
St. Kitts . . . . .	1,145	1,200
Nevis . . . . .	222	200
Anguilla . . . . .	120	90
Total . . . . .	<u>1,487</u>	<u>1,490</u>

The Old Age Pension Scheme for destitute persons aged 65 and over was introduced in 1955 and the following amounts were allotted:

	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>
	\$	\$
St. Kitts . . . . .	14,872	16,380
Nevis . . . . .	3,380	4,690
Anguilla . . . . .	2,860	3,900
Total . . . . .	<u>\$21,112</u>	<u>\$24,960</u>

These sums provided pensions of \$2·00 per fortnight to the following numbers of people:

		1955	1956
St. Kitts	.	286	315
Nevis	:	65	90
Anguilla	.	55	75
Total	.	<hr/> 406	<hr/> 480

### Probation Work

Two part-time Probation Officers from the Salvation Army have performed the usual probation duties. They have attended Juvenile Courts in Basseterre and Sandy Point, carried out investigation and probation orders, served as members of the Ex-Prisoners Aid Committee and assisted with after-care work.

The following figures give some indication of the juvenile delinquency situation and work done by Probation Officers:

Year	Cases Reported			No. Convicted		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1955	86	17	103	52	5	57
1956	55	6	61	41	3	44

Cases	1955			1956		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Investigated	69	20	89	66	25	91
Settled by Probation Officer	18	9	27	34	20	54
On Probation	12	2	14	10	1	11

There has been a decrease in the number of cases but the nature and persistence of some offences have caused concern and a committee has been set up to go into the matter.

## *Chapter 8: Legislation*

THE most important ordinances passed by the Legislative Council of Saint Christopher Nevis and Anguilla during the years 1955 and 1956 were:

- (i) An Ordinance to make provisions for the marketing of cotton produced in the island of Nevis.

The Ordinance constitutes the Nevis Cotton Growers Association the sole contractor for the sale of cotton produced in Nevis for export.

- (ii) An Ordinance to provide for the establishment, management, supervision and control of Prisons in the Colony.

The Ordinance makes provision for the administration, management and discipline of prisons in Saint Christopher Nevis and Anguilla in view of the repeal of the Prisons Act, Cap. 85 of the Leeward Islands Colony.

- (iii) An Ordinance to amend the law relating to the civil liabilities and rights of the Crown and to civil proceedings by and against the Crown, to amend the law relating to the civil liabilities of persons other than the Crown in certain cases involving the affairs or property of the Crown, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid.

The Ordinance extends to the Colony provisions modelled on those of the Crown Proceedings Act, 1947 (10 & 11 Geo. 6. c.44).

- (iv) An Ordinance to provide for the regulation of the conditions of employment in factories and other places as regards the health, safety and welfare of persons employed therein, for the safety and inspection of certain plant and machinery, and for purposes incidental to, or connected with the matters aforesaid.

This Ordinance replaces the repealed Leeward Islands Factories Act, 1948.

- (v) An Ordinance to ratify and give effect to the Agreement of the 1st day of November, 1954, entered into between the Governments of certain Caribbean territories and the West Indian Navigation Company Limited.

- (vi) An Ordinance to amend further the Income Tax Ordinance, 1945.

The Ordinance authorises claims for tax relief in respect of hotels of not less than thirty bedrooms and provides that "initial allowances" may be made in respect of capital expenditure for certain industrial purposes.

- (vii) An Ordinance to declare and define certain powers, privileges and immunities of the Legislative Council and of the members of such Council, to secure freedom of speech in the Legislative Council, to regulate the conduct of members and other persons in connection with the proceedings thereof and the admittance to the precincts of the Legislative Council, to give protection to the persons employed in the publication of the reports and other papers of the Legislative Council and for purposes incidental to or connected with the matters aforesaid.
- (viii) An Ordinance relating to Education.  
The Ordinance replaces the repealed Leeward Islands Education Act, Cap. 86.
- (ix) An Ordinance to make better provision for a water supply, the control and maintenance of watercourses, and the construction, control and maintenance of all waterworks in the Colony; and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid.
- (x) An Ordinance to provide for the payment of compensation to workmen for injuries suffered in the course of their employment.  
The Ordinance replaces the repealed Leeward Islands Workmen's Compensation Act, 1937.
- (xi) An Ordinance to make provision for the creation of a Public Service Commission.  
The Ordinance provides for the establishment of a Public Service Commission as part of the further measures of constitutional reform introduced into the Colony.
- (xii) An Ordinance to extend the operation of the laws of the Colony to the island of Sombrero.  
The Ordinance extends the operation of the laws of Saint Christopher Nevis and Anguilla to the island of Sombrero in consequence of the transfer of Sombrero from the Colony of the Virgin Islands to Saint Christopher Nevis and Anguilla.
- (xiii) An Ordinance to provide for the registration of nurses for the sick.  
The Ordinance makes provision for the establishment and constitution of a Nursing Council and for the formation of a Register of Nurses.
- (xiv) An Ordinance to substitute in the laws of Saint Christopher Nevis and Anguilla the expression "Colony" for the expression "Presidency", and to provide that statutory appointments to offices and bodies corporate or unincorporate in the Presidency shall be deemed to be appointments to corresponding offices and bodies in the Colony.

- (xv) An Ordinance to provide for the custody and treatment of persons of unsound mind, for their removal from the Colony to a mental hospital outside the Colony for such treatment, and for other purposes incidental thereto and connected therewith.

The Ordinance replaces the repealed Leeward Islands Lunatics Act, Cap. 111.

- (xvi) An Ordinance to provide for the incorporation and regulation of Building Societies.

- (xvii) An Ordinance to make provision for holidays with pay for employees.

- (xviii) An Ordinance to provide for the formation and to regulate the operations of co-operative societies.

- (xix) An Ordinance to amend further the Customs Duties Ordinance, 1927.

The Ordinance makes provision whereby customs duties on *ad valorem* goods should be collected on C.I.F. value instead of F.O.B. value.

- (xx) An Ordinance to amend further the Jury Act.

- (xxi) An Ordinance to amend further the Supreme Court Act.

- (xxii) An Ordinance to make minor amendments to various Acts in so far as is necessary in connection with the establishment of an Anguilla Circuit of the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands.

Nos. (xx), (xxi) and (xxii) give effect to the decision to establish an Anguilla Circuit of the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands.

- (xxiii) An Ordinance to provide for the vesting of German Enemy Property in the Colony in an Administrator and for the distribution thereof.

- (xxiv) An Ordinance to encourage the Hotel Industry in the Colony by granting certain relief in respect of customs duties and pier dues to persons who expend monies upon the construction or equipment of Hotels in the Colony, and for purposes incidental thereto or connected therewith.

The Ordinance reproduces the provisions of the Ordinance of 1949 of the same Title which expired on the 31st December, 1955.

- (xxv) An Ordinance to enact certain Acts of the former Colony of the Leeward Islands.

The Ordinance re-enacts as laws of the Colony of Saint Christopher Nevis and Anguilla those Acts of the Legislature of the Leeward Islands which lapsed on the dissolution of the Leeward Islands Colony.

- (xxvi) An Ordinance to provide for certain powers, duties and privileges of the Governor and the Administrator under various Ordinances to be transferred to a Minister or the Governor in Council.

## **Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons**

THE Acts of the Leeward Islands and the Ordinances of Saint Christopher Nevis and Anguilla constitute a fairly considerable body of statute law in force in the Colony. In addition, there are some Imperial Statutes, such as the British Nationality Act, 1948, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 to 1952, which are applicable throughout the Colonial Empire and therefore extend to the Colony. Subject to these, the Common Law of England is applicable to the Colony.

The Courts of Law in the Colony are:

- (a) The Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands;
- (b) The Summary Jurisdiction Court; and,
- (c) The Magistrate's Court.

From the 1st January, 1940, the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands ceased to exist and, by virtue of an Order in Council of His Majesty, entitled the Leeward Islands and Windward Islands (Courts) Order in Council, 1939, one Superior Court of Record, styled the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, was created for the Colonies of Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, Dominica and the Leeward Islands. This Court is presided over by a Chief Justice or Puisne Judges, of whom there are three in number.

Circuit Courts, with a jury of nine for the trial of criminal cases, are held in St. Kitts, in the months of February, July and November; and in Nevis, in the months of April and November. The Attorney General or the Crown Attorney exercises the functions of the Grand Jury.

The Court of Summary Jurisdiction sits without a jury in the Colony for the trial of civil cases where a sum of not more than \$240 is involved and in certain cases by consent when the amount in dispute does not exceed \$480. The sittings of the Court are fixed for the first day of the month in which the Circuit Court sessions are to be held, but in practice they are held after the criminal list and appeals have been disposed of in the Circuit Courts.

Cases of every type can be tried by the Supreme Court. On the criminal side of the Supreme Court, offences under the Larceny Act, which include burglary, housebreaking and all the more serious thefts, preponderate. Actions for trespass are the most numerous in the Summary Jurisdiction Court.

Appeals from both the Supreme Court and the Court of Summary Jurisdiction lie to the Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands (which was also created by the Imperial Order in Council of 1939) against convictions on indictment and in certain civil matters, and to the West Indian Court of Appeal from a final

judgment in civil proceedings of the Supreme Court sitting as a Court of first instance and by leave from any inter-locutory order made in the course of any proceedings.

Summary criminal offences and civil claims up to a limit of \$96 in contract and \$48 in tort are dealt with by the District Magistrates. Their jurisdiction is prescribed by the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act (Cap. 61).

Appeals from decisions of Magistrates go to a Judge of the Supreme Court, and a further right of appeal against the decision of a Judge may be made to the Court of Appeal for the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands.

A Juvenile Court was established in 1950. The District Magistrates and two assessors, one of whom is a woman, constitute this Court. Its procedure is prescribed by the Juvenile Courts Procedure Rules, 1949. The Juvenile Act, 1949, constitutes the code which regulates the legal protection and treatment of juveniles.

#### POLICE

The Police Force of the Colony of St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla still forms part of the Leeward Islands Police Force, and is controlled by the Commissioner of Police whose Headquarters are in Antigua. The strength of the Force on 31st December, 1956, was 105; in addition, there was in 1956, an establishment of five Subordinate Police Officers and 11 Constables comprising the Fire Brigade, which comes under the direct control of the Superintendent of Police.

There were also 72 local constables serving in the Colony in 1956, who were of great assistance to the Police in their campaign against illicit distillation of rum and smuggling.

Other duties undertaken by the police, in addition to their normal duties, include the control of traffic and licensing of vehicles, control of immigration, the checking of weights and measures, the issuing of various other badges and licences (e.g., dog licences) and the operation of a radio-telephony service between St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla.

#### *Training*

In 1955, 23 recruits completed their training in the month of April. In 1956, one Subordinate Police Officer underwent a two-month course in fire-fighting in Trinidad, the cost being met by grants under the West Indies General Training Scheme. Twenty-four recruits were trained locally and one was sent to the Regional Police Training School, Barbados.

During 1955 and 1956, all ranks attended lectures in First Aid, the majority of whom have qualified for the St. John Ambulance Association Certificate.

#### *Fingerprints*

There were 916 sets of fingerprints on file on 31st December, 1956.

### *Photography*

A fair amount of photographic work was done in 1955 and 1956. The method of having a collection of recidivists' photographs posted at the various police stations was very helpful in spreading information to police personnel regarding these criminals.

### *Crime*

There has been a general decrease in crimes and offences, due mainly to island-wide patrol schemes, coupled with mass emigration to the United Kingdom and other countries, thereby leaving vacancies for employment.

### *Juvenile Delinquency*

Although there has been a decrease in this type of offender the absence of a Reformatory School creates a problem to the Courts and Police. Lack of parental control accompanied by hunger is still evident.

### *Illicit Distillation*

Three hundred and twenty-one illicit stills were destroyed in 1955, an increase of 127 over 1954; 129 were destroyed in 1956, a decrease of 65 compared with 1954 and 192 compared with 1955. The increase was due to the activities of a Police Special Squad formed on 7th January, 1955, to suppress this type of offence.

In 1955, 148 persons were prosecuted for illicit distillation; 117 were convicted and fines totalling \$8,125 were imposed. In 1956, 62 persons were prosecuted, 36 were convicted and fines totalling \$1,690 were imposed.

### *Vehicles and Traffic*

The total number of mechanically propelled vehicles registered during 1955 was 115 and in 1956 was 157. The total number registered on 31st December, 1956 was 1,239.

One hundred and forty-seven road and traffic accidents were recorded in 1955: six were fatal accidents involving the death of six persons, and 55 involved injuries to 83 persons. In 1956, 172 accidents were recorded; ten were fatal accidents involving the death of 11 persons, and 69 injured 77 persons.

### *Migration*

In 1955, 6,734 passengers arrived and 8,115 departed and in 1956, 5,062 arrived and 6,940 departed.

Four persons were refused permission to land because of lack of funds for their maintenance, and other means of security. Twenty natives of the Colony were repatriated during 1956; 15 from the Dominican Republic, two from Cuba, one from the U.S.A., one from

Curaçao and one from Trinidad. Two persons were repatriated to Guadeloupe and one to Dominica. One person was deported to the Colony from the U.S.A. and one from Dominica. One native of Barbados was repatriated.

#### PRISONS

The main prison is situated in the town of Basseterre on the Island of St. Christopher. There is a farm prison for young offenders and Star class prisoners on the Island of Nevis (11 miles S.E. of St. Christopher) and a "Lock-up" on the Island of Anguilla some 60 miles north of St. Christopher. At this "Lock-up" only prisoners with sentences up to seven days are detained; those with longer sentences are sent on to the prison in St. Christopher to serve their sentences.

Up to 30th June, 1956, the Senior Police officer of the Presidency exercised general supervision over the prisons, but with the defederation of the Leeward Islands and the coming into effect of a new Prison Ordinance (No. 4 of 1955 as amended by No. 14 of 1956) the administration is vested in the Prison Keeper.

The staff of the prisons consists of:

	No.
Keeper of Prison . . . . .	1
Male subordinate officers . . . . .	16*
Female subordinate officers . . . . .	2
	<hr/>
	19
	<hr/>

#### *Prison Population*

	1955			1956		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Prisoners on 1st January . . . . .	81	3	84	78	2	80
Prisoners on 31st December . . . . .	82	3	85	50	—	50
Prisoners admitted . . . . .	331	48	379	221	30	251
Prisoners transferred to Farm Prison . . . . .	64	—	64	53	—	53

Of the total number of admissions during the period, recidivists represented 63·59 per cent in 1955 as against 71·5 per cent in 1956.

Admissions in default of payment of fines and costs were 134 in 1955, as against 102 in 1956.

\* Four of this number are posted to the Farm Prison in Nevis.

The Basseterre prison building does not permit complete segregation of the various classes of prisoners. Young offenders and certain Star class prisoners were transferred to the Nevis Farm Prison where there is accommodation for 30 prisoners.

### *Discipline and Health*

One hundred and eleven and 189 reports for breaches of prison rules for the years 1955 and 1956 respectively were investigated and disposed of as follows:

<i>Punishment awarded</i>	<i>1955</i>						<i>1956</i>	
	<i>No.</i>						<i>No.</i>	
Loss of remission marks . . . . .	18						16	
Restricted diet . . . . .	15						16	
Reprimanded . . . . .	41						112	
Confined to cells . . . . .	13						13	
Loss of privilege . . . . .	2						8	
Extra work . . . . .	5						3	
Corporal punishment (12 strokes with tamarind rod). . . . .	—						1	
Punishment dismissed . . . . .	17						20	
	<hr/>						<hr/>	
	111						189	
	<hr/>						<hr/>	

The general health of prisoners during the period was reported as satisfactory.

### *Vocational and other Training*

Training was given in agriculture (at the Farm Prison) carpentry, mattress-making, preparing coir from coconut husks, baking, tailoring, shoemaking and upholstery. There is a small prison library and illiterate prisoners receive instructions in the three R's.

### *Aid on Discharge*

There are no schemes for earning in prisons, but prisoners with sentences from six months and over receive financial assistance at the rate of 1s. per week served. There is no After-Care Officer.

## *Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works*

### **ROADS**

#### *St. Kitts*

THE road reconstruction programme, which is mainly confined to colas surfacing, was accelerated in 1955 to afford as much surfaced road as possible in time for the visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Margaret in February of that year. The sections completed were mainly through villages, which helped considerably in improving public sanitation and housing developments. In 1956 reconstruction

continued with a view to filling the gaps between villages, which totalled  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles were completed during this period.

It was hoped to complete by 1958 the main road around the island, four miles of which were surfaced.

Road works also improved the deteriorated colas-surfaced streets in Basseterre and part of the approach road to Brimstone Hill which now provides good motoring for tourists visiting this historic site. In addition, new concrete drains were provided through villages and other badly washed sections of the main road, and all roads were satisfactorily maintained to afford fair use even under adverse tropical weather conditions.

#### *Nevis*

Road reconstruction was rather slow owing to the need to keep within the limited funds provided. During the period 1955–56 a total of about one mile was completed, mainly in the vicinity of Bath Village and Cotton Ground.

Normal road maintenance was successfully carried out throughout the island and the main road improved by the construction of culverts at points where traffic was disrupted by streams flowing across the road during showers, which are frequent in Nevis during the rainy season.

#### *Anguilla*

Road reconstruction satisfactorily progressed and was likely to be speeded as much-needed road equipment was received. A total length of  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile was completed which includes colas, concrete and macadam surfacing to suit the varying conditions that exist in that island.

General maintenance and repairs of roads, buildings and drains were also carried out satisfactorily with the limited funds available.

#### TELEPHONES

The telephone systems in operation in the Colony are undoubtedly unsuitable and beyond repair. The systems have however been maintained at great cost to ensure that telephone facilities are available to the public. Extension of the service has not been possible and few subscribers have been added to the already overburdened switch-boards.

New systems are planned for St. Kitts and Nevis and are expected to be commenced soon, as a fair portion of the materials have already arrived in the Colony.

#### WATER SUPPLY

Water supplies were satisfactorily maintained during 1955–56. Minor schemes were undertaken to improve water distribution in Basseterre. Alterations and general maintenance to the islands water mains and installations were also carried out to ensure a satisfactory public water supply.

New supplies are on order and equipment has been received which will soon be installed to increase both storage and supply and improve the quantity of water distributed.

#### BUILDINGS AND OTHER STRUCTURES

##### *Piers*

The warehouse and Treasury piers in St. Kitts were completed in early 1955 and satisfy adequately the shipping needs in respect of both cargo and passengers.

The Charlestown pier in Nevis was severely damaged by rough seas in November, 1956, and urgent major repairs were carried out in order to facilitate handling of the sugar cane crop and to afford means of disembarkation and embarkation of visitors for the Alexander Hamilton Bicentennial Celebrations in early 1957.

##### *War Memorial*

The war memorial situated at the end of the Bay Road can be seen from the sea. The cenotaph has been erected in the form of a centre feature and towers about 47 feet. The surroundings are carried out in local stone from the three islands of the Colony. This project was completed in 1956 in time for the memorial service which was held on November 11th.

##### *New Buildings*

Construction of official quarters was given high priority in order to provide accommodation for staff recruited from overseas, which was and is still badly needed. During the 1955-56 period eight were provided of the two and three bedroom type bungalow design with combined living room, kitchen, servant's quarters and garage.

The Police Headquarters and Magistrates' Court, which is the largest building to be erected in the Colony, was completed in 1955. This three-storey building is of reinforced concrete construction with stone masonry external walls. The Losack Road block consists of the Magistrates' Court and offices on the ground floor with two storeys providing accommodation for the divisional officers of the Police Force. The building is a compact and complete unit for the Police Headquarters and includes, a canteen for recreational purposes, and four large dormitories.

General maintenance, repairs and reconstruction of buildings throughout the Colony have been made at reasonable cost despite the increased costs of labour and materials.

#### STAFF

The Public Works Department experienced much difficulty as a result of the acute shortage of technical officers mainly in the architectural and survey sections. This caused great hardship to the existing staff and handicapped the Department in dealing with the numerous demands upon it, some of which were unduly delayed.

### ELECTRICITY

The A.C. power station in St. Kitts was commissioned in May, 1952. It is owned by the Government and operated by the Electricity and Cold Storage Department, which is also responsible for the provision of cold storage facilities in St. Kitts and Nevis. In St. Kitts, generation is by three 270 k.W. G.E.C. alternators driven by National gas/diesel engines operated solely on diesel fuel. Transmission is at 3·3 k.v. and 11 k.v., three phase, over distances of 4 and 30 miles respectively. Local distribution is at 60 cycles, three phase, with a nominal 400 volts in the built-up areas and 230 volts in the country districts. Considerable progress was made during 1956 in connecting villages, and supply is now available to approximately 75 per cent of the population. Total units generated in 1956 amounted to 1,708,560 k.w.h.

The new power plant in Nevis was commissioned during the latter part of 1954, generation being by one 35 k.W. G.E.C. alternator driven by a National diesel engine and by one 65 k.W. G.E.C. alternator driven by an Allen diesel engine. Transmission is at 3·3 k.v. single phase and covers approximately half the island.

The sliding "all-in" tariff is available to about 2,400 consumers in the two islands at an initial rate of 13 cents a k.w.h., falling to 8 cents a k.w.h. for domestic and business users.

There is no public electricity supply in the island of Anguilla.

## *Chapter 11: Communications*

### SHIPPING

COMMUNICATIONS between the Colony and the United Kingdom were maintained by vessels of the Harrison Line, which called approximately once a month at St. Kitts to discharge cargo and load sugar or cotton for the United Kingdom. During the crop season for sugar, from about January to July, more frequent calls were made.

Cargo vessels of the Canadian National Steamship Company, which have accommodation for a limited number of passengers, also maintained a regular southbound service during the years under review between Canada and Trinidad, calling at St. Kitts *en route*. In addition, cargo vessels of the Alcoa Line, with accommodation for a limited number of passengers, maintained a similar southbound service between the United States and Trinidad, calling at St. Kitts.

The inter-island facilities provided by the two last-mentioned shipping lines were also supplemented by small Dutch and French cargo-carrying steamers, which called at St. Kitts *en route* from Curaçao to St. Martin; by two motor vessels of about 100 tons each—the *Caribbee* and the *Moneka*\*—which ply between these islands, the

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\* The *Moneka* was wrecked in November, 1956.

Windward Islands, Barbados and Curaçao; and by numerous sloops and schooners which ply between the Leeward Islands themselves and between this Colony and other West Indian territories.

A new inter-island service was inaugurated in December, 1954, by the Dutch motor-vessel *Antillia*, which has accommodation for passengers and refrigerated cargo space, and which plys between Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire, St. Martin, St. Eustatius, Antigua, St. Kitts, Montserrat, Trinidad, the Windward Islands and Santo Domingo. In addition to this vessel, three small American ships of approximately 1,000 tons each—the *Maracas Bay*, the *Cotton Bay* and the *Pensacola Bay*—operate on a route extending from British Guiana to Puerto Rico, calling at all British and American islands along the route.

In 1955, negotiations between the Governments of Barbados, British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica, the Windward Islands, and the Leeward Islands (excepting the Virgin Islands), and the West Indies Navigation Co., Ltd., for a regular inter-territorial shipping service by the s.s. *West Indian* were completed. Plans are afoot to add another steamship of similar tonnage to the service.

#### CIVIL AVIATION

British West Indian Airways maintained a weekly service between St. Kitts (Golden Rock airport) and other islands of the British and French West Indies, and Puerto Rico. The services to Jamaica and Barbados connect with the services of British Overseas Airways to the United Kingdom.

K.L.M. continued to maintain a service between Curaçao and St. Martin, calling at Guadeloupe and St. Kitts.

A new air service, Leeward Islands Air Transport Services Ltd., began operating in July, 1956. The aircraft used are Piper Apaches, and they provide a service three times per week to Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, St. Eustatius, St. Martin, Anguilla and Puerto Rico.

Aeronautical telecommunications services in St. Kitts are operated by International Aeradio (West Indies) Limited, in accordance with agreements entered into with the Governments of these Colonies.

Work has commenced on the construction of a small airstrip in Nevis which is designed to be 3,000 feet in length. The location of it is on the northern side of the island, about 6½ miles from Charlestown, the capital.

#### RAILWAYS

There is only one narrow gauge light railway in the Colony, which is in St. Kitts, its total length being 36 miles. The railway is used for the transport of sugar cane to the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory and for the conveyance of sugar from the Factory to the wharf.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited maintained a station in St. Kitts which is connected by cable with other parts of the West Indies. Radio-telephony services are operated by the Company with other islands in the West Indies, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

A limited local service was operated by the Government between St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla.

## *Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services*

## PRESS

THE following newspapers and periodicals were published in the Colony during the period under review:

Fortnightly: *The St. Christopher-Nevis Official Gazette.*

Weekly: *The Democrat: the Nevis Recorder.*

Daily: *The St. Christopher-Nevis Daily Bulletin; the Union Messenger.*

## BROADCASTING

There is no broadcasting station in St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla.

## FILMS

Two 16-mm. motion picture cameras are owned by the Government of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and during the period under review approximately two thousand feet of films were used. The films produced included:

- (i) The visit of H.R.H. Princess Margaret to St. Kitts (800 feet).
- (ii) Beating the Retreat by Local Forces (200 feet).
- (iii) Children's Carnival in aid of the Women's Voluntary Service League and the Red Cross (in colour) (400 feet).

## GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

There is no Public Relations or Information Department in the Colony but information was disseminated as far as possible through press releases and public notices. Material received from the Central Office of Information in London was distributed as widely as possible. Portable 16-mm. sound film projectors were used to give free entertainment and educational shows. British newsreels and other films supplied by the Central Office of Information were shown frequently to schools and to adult audiences.

## *Chapter 13: Local Forces*

THE St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla Defence Force was reorganised in 1913 and was on actual service during the wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45. The Force is a purely voluntary body and no member receives any pay and allowances save when the Force is embodied for actual service, or is on active service, or on annual training. During 1954, a new and up-to-date Ordinance was enacted repealing the laws relating to the Defence Force and Defence Reserve and making suitable provision for the control, training and discipline of the Force. The Defence Reserve was abolished in 1954. There is a Cadet Corps attached to the Grammar School.

## PART III

### *Chapter 1: Geography and Climate*

ST. KITTS and Nevis are tops of the submerged inner range of mountains which once ran in a curve from the coast of Venezuela to Yucatan and Florida. The two islands are separated by a strait three miles wide, in the midst of which rises the rock known as Booby Island. Anguilla which is situated some 60 miles north of St. Kitts, is formed by a mass of coral built on the foreland of the submerged range. It has a flat surface, the highest point rising only 213 feet above the sea. This is in contrast with St. Kitts and Nevis, which rise respectively to 3,711 and 3,596 feet. Both St. Kitts and Nevis are volcanic, Mount Misery in St. Kitts being an eroded cone with a large crater.

The climate of the islands is governed by their position, elevation, and direction of axis. Their latitude of between  $17\frac{1}{2}$ ° and  $18\frac{1}{2}$ ° N. places them near the high pressure belt of calm, descending air, which lies along the Tropic of Cancer. Hence, as compared with the islands farther east, they have a lower mean temperature, and broadly speaking, a lower rainfall. St. Kitts, whose long axis lies athwart the Trade Winds, has a mean average temperature of 78·8° F. with a mean rainfall of 54 inches. Nevis enjoys a similar temperature, but has a mean rainfall of only 48 inches owing to its compact shape, whilst the low-lying Anguilla, whose long axis runs parallel to the path of the Trades, is too dry to support the luxuriant forest characteristic of the West Indies and is largely covered with low bushes. The islands lie in the path of the hurricanes which sweep through the Caribbean between July and November : St. Kitts was struck by one in 1899 and with Nevis suffered damage from high seas following a hurricane in November, 1956. Earth tremors occur in both islands.

In St. Kitts and Nevis the parts of the hills above 1,200 feet are covered with forest which in the latter island is protected by law in order to maintain the rainfall. Some of the trees, like lignum vitæ, locust, and galba, yield good hardwood, and others, like the bread-fruit, mango, pawpaw, soursop, avocado pear, sapodilla, and cashew, bear fruit which are much used for local consumption. The small extent of the forests, which is 18,000 acres out of the total land area of 96,000 acres, does not enable much economic use to be made of the timber trees.

In St. Kitts the cultivable land, which consists of the lower slopes of the hills, is mainly divided into large, privately owned sugar plantations ("estates"). The labourers grow subsistence crops of sweet potatoes, yams, cassava, maize, peas, beans, greens, bananas,

etc., on the upper parts of the slopes. In Nevis the land is nearly all in the hands of peasant proprietors, and the same is true to an even greater extent in Anguilla.

The chief economic crops in St. Kitts and Nevis are the traditional sugar cane and cotton. A recent enterprise in cotton cultivation has had some success in Anguilla. In St. Kitts the cultivation of these main crops is done mainly on plantations which send their canes to a central factory near Basseterre to be turned into sugar, syrup, and rum. The cotton crop, which is ginned locally, is much affected by a pest known as the pink bollworm.

In St. Kitts, where the population was nearly doubled between 1938 and 1955, some 14,000 persons live in Basseterre, the administrative capital of the islands. In Nevis and Anguilla the sparse population is more evenly distributed.

## *Chapter 2: History*

THE Colony consists of three islands: St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla. St. Christopher, or St. Kitts, and Nevis were discovered by Christopher Columbus on his second voyage to the West Indies in 1493, while Anguilla is said to have been discovered and colonised by the English in 1650.

British West Indian colonisation dates from January, 1623, when Captain Thomas Warner (afterwards Sir Thomas Warner) landed with a party at St. Kitts on the bay where the town of Old Road now stands, and with the licence of the Carib King, Tegreeman, founded a settlement there. St. Kitts was also the site of the first French Colony, the island being divided between British and French colonists during the first year of its occupation by European settlers. The branch colonies which sprang from this settlement gave St. Kitts the proud title of "Mother of the Antilles".

Five years after the colonisation of St. Kitts, the English from St. Kitts established themselves in Nevis, under the protection and guidance of Captain Thomas Warner.

While Nevis was enjoying a period of comparative prosperity after its colonisation, St. Kitts was the scene of several battles between the English and the French for its entire possession. From 1666 there was constant war between the two occupying Forces until 1783 when, by the Treaty of Versailles, St. Kitts became an entirely British possession and has remained so ever since. By this same treaty, Nevis, which was invaded and seized by the French for the last time in 1782, was also restored to British sovereignty.

Apart from several incursions by the French and frequent plunderings by marauders, Anguilla has remained a British possession since

its colonisation. The last attempt at capturing Anguilla was made by the French in 1796; but due to the timely arrival of Captain Robert Barton, commanding H.M.S. *Lapwing*, the defenceless inhabitants of the island were saved from complete annihilation.

The best known events in the Colony's history are perhaps the defence of Brimstone Hill in St. Kitts in 1782, an action which ultimately contributed to the defeat of the French Fleet at "The Saints", near Dominica by Rodney; the marriage at Nevis in 1787 of Lord Nelson, commander of the Leeward Islands Naval Station, and the young widow Nisbet of Nevis; and the birth at Charlestown, Nevis, in 1757 of Alexander Hamilton, the son of a Scottish planter, who became one of the draughtsmen of the American Constitution. The remains of his alleged birth-place are still to be seen.

### *Chapter 3: Administration*

THE Colony of St. Christopher Nevis and Anguilla came into existence on the 1st July, 1956, the day appointed for the coming into operation of the Leeward Islands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order in Council, 1956, (S.I. No. 833) made under the Leeward Islands Act, 1956, (4 & 5. Eliz. 2 Ch. 23). This Act, which constituted the Presidencies of the Leeward Islands separate Colonies, repealed the Leeward Islands Act, 1871, and thus abrogated the federal constitution created in 1871 under which the Leeward Islands Colony was established with five Presidencies, namely, Antigua with Barbuda and Redonda; St. Christopher Nevis and Anguilla; Montserrat; Dominica and the British Virgin Islands. "Defederation", as it is called, had begun in 1940 when Dominica ceased to be a Presidency of the Leeward Islands and became a separate Colony under the Governor of the Windward Islands. It was completed by the Leeward Islands Act, 1956.

The Colony is now administered under the Governor of the Leeward Islands in a manner similar to the Windward Islands. The following central departments are directly responsible to the Governor of the Leeward Islands: Secretariat, Audit and Police. The functions of the Crown Attorney of Antigua have been fused with those of the Attorney General of the Leeward Islands who continues as the Governor's Legal Adviser.

Besides the three islands of St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla, the Colony includes the island of Sombrero which was formally transferred from the Presidency of the Virgin Islands to St. Christopher Nevis and Anguilla with effect from the 1st May, 1956. As Sombrero contains only a lighthouse and a lighthouse-keeper and three other residents, all natives of the Colony, and as the island has

for some time been under the supervision of the Treasurer of the Colony, the transfer was effected solely for purposes of administrative convenience.

The constitution of 1952 established under the St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla Constitution and Elections Ordinance, No. 5 of 1952, introduced universal adult suffrage into the Colony and provided that every lay resident British subject (not of unsound mind, adjudicated bankrupt, or under sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding 12 months) was, subject to a simple literacy test, qualified for election to the Legislative Council.

Another reform was the introduction of the Membership System which was replaced by a Ministerial system on the 19th January, 1956. Under the Ministerial system the Governor issues directions assigning certain departments or subjects of administration to the three elected members of the Executive Council who are respectively styled Minister of Trade and Production, Minister of Communications and Works, and Minister of Social Services.

The Ministers and official members of the Executive Council have administrative responsibility for the Government Departments grouped under them and in the discharge of their functions they act through the Heads of the Departments.

The Executive Council (now the principal instrument of policy) includes the Governor or Administrator (as President), the Crown Attorney, the Financial Secretary, one nominated member of the Legislative Council, nominated by the Governor, and five elected members of the Legislative Council, elected by the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, the fifth elected member having been elected by the elected and nominated members of the Legislative Council from among the Nevis Members to represent Nevis in the Executive Council. Neither the Governor nor the Administrator shall have an original vote in the Council, but if on any question the votes are equally divided, the Governor or the Administrator, as the case may be, may, if presiding, give a casting vote. Elected members thus having a voting majority on the Executive Council.

As in other British territories with similar constitutions, the Governor's reserve legislative powers, as prescribed by the Constitution and Elections Ordinance, are retained.

The Legislative Council consists of the Administrator, the Crown Attorney and the Financial Secretary *ex officio*, eight elected members and three nominated members. Universal adult suffrage exists in the Colony. The elected members are in the majority on both the Executive and Legislative Councils.

A Public Service Commission created by statute and composed of members appointed by the Governor, advises the Governor on questions relating to the control of public officers and other matters affecting the Public Service.

## *Chapter 4: Weights and Measures*

STANDARD imperial weights and measures are used in the Colony. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is provided by law.

## *Chapter 5: Reading List*

### *General*

- ASPINALL, SIR A. *The Pocket Guide to the West Indies*. 10th edition. Methuen, 1954.
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## APPENDIX

## Colonial Development and Welfare Schemes initiated or in progress during 1955 and 1956

Serial No.	Title of Scheme	Estimated cost of Scheme	Total Expenditure			
			From C.D.W. Funds 1955	From Local Funds 1955	From C.D.W. Funds 1956	From Local Funds 1956
D13D(aa)	Experimental Crops, Anguilla	\$ 1,440	\$ 352	\$ —	\$ 664	\$ —
D201c(R)	Visit of Agricultural Team of Experts to Nevis	1,190	—	—	1,134	—
D1108(286)	Training of E. Nisbett at Caribbean Farm Institute	1,560	1,316	—	1,316	—
(298)	Training of F. E. Farrer in Sanitation	2,116	1,989	—	1,989	—
(358)	Training of L. P. Evelyn in Agriculture and Animal Husbandry	1,363	624	—	810	—
(360)	Training of K. Martin in Agriculture	1,363	618	—	809	—
(381)	Training of V. Caesar in Sanitation	2,256	1,094	—	2,151	—
(384)	Training of S. Walwyn in Sanitation	1,382	705	—	1,337	—
(432)	Training of L. Carey in V.D. Work	398	—	—	379	—
(433)	Training of Cpl. S. H. Francis in Fire Fighting	432	—	—	194	—
D1511	Development of Cattle Industry, Nevis	128,600	67,400	24,619	67,400	24,619
D1652	Pilot Project in Group Farming, Nevis	105,936	58,530	6,512	59,895	6,512
D1780 & A	Slum Clearance, Newtown (Grant)	167,304	155,052	4,837	155,171	4,947
D2129	Slum Clearance, Newtown (Loan)	24,960	23,217	—	23,922	—
D2130	Housing Improvement	50,002	29,618	—	38,441	—
D2221	Training of Teachers	4,800	4,397	—	4,397	—
D2345	Livestock Development	28,320	5,618	—	13,225	—
	Education Centre, Basseterre	54,635	165,058	54,635	13,659	19,950

\* Initiated 1955.

Initiated 1956.

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Report of a Fact-Finding Mission. February 1955.  
(Colonial No. 314.)

4s. (post 5d.)

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION, BRITISH CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES

Report on the Provision of Agricultural Education of University Degree Standard in the British Caribbean Territories. By Sir Robert S. Wood. (1955.) Colonial No. 313.)

1s. 6d. (post 2d.)

REPORT ON ROADS AND ROAD PROBLEMS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN

By F. H. P. Williams. (1957.)

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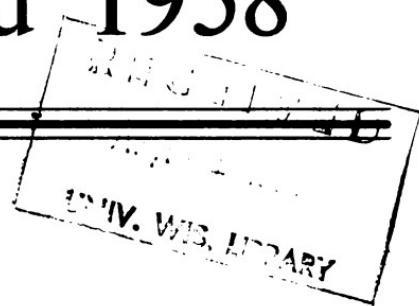
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## PART I

### *Chapter 1: General Review of 1957 and 1958*

THE year 1957 opened auspiciously with the celebrations held in Nevis on the 11th January to mark the bicentenary of the birth at Charlestown of Alexander Hamilton. The United States delegation for the celebration was headed by Mr. Laurens Hamilton and included Admiral Richmond of the United States Coast Guard and Admiral Gallery, Commander Caribbean Sea Frontier, San Juan, Puerto Rico. A special stamp designed by Miss Eva Wilkin, the Nevis artist, was issued to mark this event.

In March a delegation from the colony went to London for discussions with the Colonial Office concerning the Development Plan. As a result the pattern for development for the period 1955–60 was finally agreed and many schemes were got under way.

The new Governor, His Excellency Sir Alexander Williams, K.C.M.G., M.B.E., who took up his appointment in the Leeward Islands in February, 1957, visited the colony for the first time early in the year.

The year 1957 was a poor one financially and economically, and the Financial Secretary in his budget address sounded a very serious note of warning. Expenditure was overtaking revenue, and the economy, based mainly on a sugar crop production of approximately 50,000 tons of sugar a year, appeared to have reached its zenith. The 1956 budget showed a deficit, and 1957 was also a deficit budget year. The sugar crop realised only 37,416 tons for export.

Industrial relations were good throughout the year and there were no strikes.

Elections were held in November and resulted in the majority party (the St. Kitts Workers' League) losing three seats to independents in Nevis and Anguilla, but maintaining their ascendancy in St. Kitts, where they won all five seats. This outcome divided the Legislative Council on geographical lines, with unfortunate results the following year.

West Indian federation became a reality in August, 1957, when Her Majesty the Queen signed the relevant Order in Council. The Federal elections were held in March, 1958, and resulted in two members of the majority party being returned. Two Senators from the same party were nominated to represent the territory.

The Governor-General, His Excellency Lord Hailes, K.B.E., visited the colony for the first time in January, 1958. Lady Hailes, regrettably, was unable to accompany her husband on this tour, but made a visit to St. Christopher and Nevis in June.

The opening of the Federal Legislature in Trinidad by Her Royal Highness the Princess Margaret in April proved a splendid occasion for the Federation of The West Indies, and the celebrations which followed provided a magnificent tapestry against which representatives of the unit territories met for the first time as components of the Federal Government.

In 1958 a serious constitutional crisis arose in connection with the re-instatement of a Member for Nevis who had been removed from the Executive Council by a vote of the Legislative Council. The Secretary of State, to whom the majority party had protested, upheld the re-instatement of the Member. Difficulties within the Education Department led to the appointment by the Governor of a Commission of Inquiry. The Commission's report is being studied.

Great difficulty was experienced during 1958 in staffing the Medical Department owing to resignations from the service and the difficulty of recruiting candidates at the salaries offered. Salary scales for Medical Officers were raised at the end of the year, but the strain on the medical service, working short staffed, was considerable.

The financial situation remained gloomy in 1958 with revenue falling behind expectations and, despite severe budgetary pruning, expenditure creeping inexorably upwards. At the end of the year only 42,498.43 tons of sugar had been produced and, largely due to absenteeism on the part of estate sugar workers, some 12,000 tons of cane was left in the fields unreaped. The 1959 Estimates passed by the Legislative Council budgeted for a deficit of \$156,515 even though all capital works (other than those in the Development Plan) were ruthlessly eliminated from the expenditure side of the budget. Again the Acting Financial Secretary gave a serious warning that the Government should immediately seek new industries and not rely entirely on sugar, should improve its methods of revenue collection and should cut its expenditure to the bone or risk its dwindling reserve balance being soon exhausted. At the end of the year, the Government had agreed that a financial and economic survey of the territory should be made in order to assist it to formulate a sound policy for improving the economy and expanding revenue. It was recognised on all sides that the greatest difficulties attended upon the territory's earnest desire to retain its unique position in the Windwards and Leewards of not being grant-aided.

The Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies continued to do excellent work throughout the territory in adult education and cultural activities.

Both 1957 and 1958 saw very satisfactory progress in the provision of housing for sugar workers in St. Kitts by the Central Housing Authority, and in the implementation of the electricity and water

schemes for St. Kitts and Nevis by the Electricity and Water Departments. By the end of 1958 the Public Works Department, mainly with Colonial Development and Welfare funds allocated under the Development Plan (as revised in the discussions held in London in March, 1957), had completed in Nevis the Newcastle airstrip and the reconstruction of the Court House and the Health Clinic, and in Anguilla and St. Kitts respectively was well on its way to completing the Administration building and the Customs and Post Offices.

## PART II

### *Chapter 1: Population*

THE following figures show the actual population of the colony in 1946, the year in which the last census was taken, and the estimated population on the 31st December, 1957, and 30th September, 1958:

1946	1957	1958
46,243	57,531	58,579

Vital statistics are given in Chapter 7, p. 32.

### *Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation*

#### EMPLOYMENT

THE estimated numbers employed in the principal occupations in 1957–58 were as follows:

#### *Estimated Numbers Employed in the Sugar Industry*

Year	Sugar Estates			Sugar Factory		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1957 . .	4,000	2,600	6,600	930	25	955
1958 . .	4,000	2,600	6,600	1,000	25	1,025

*Estimated Numbers Employed in other Main Occupations*

Year	Government Departments			Waterfront Workers
	Male	Female	Total	
1957 . .		<i>not available</i>		369
1958 . .	600	75	675	394

No figures are available of the incidence of unemployment, but from the seasonal nature of employment on the sugar estates and the absence of alternatives jobs, it seems clear that there is a high level of under-employment in the out-of-crop season, say from August to January.

There were 94 workers engaged in agricultural work in the United States at 31st December, 1957, and 95 at 31st December, 1958. Recruitment of workers to the United States is handled by the Department of Labour on behalf of the Regional Labour Board which controls the scheme. The Regional Labour Board is composed of Government delegates of all participating countries. Government control is exercised through the Board which maintains representatives in the United States together with a liaison staff.

In 1957 and 1958, 65 and 59 workers respectively were placed in agricultural employment in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands; they were employed mainly as cane cutters and, in both years, on contracts lasting for about three to four months.

There are no employment exchanges in the colony.

No migrant labour is employed.

#### WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Wage rates in 1958 were as shown below:

*Estate Male Labourers*  
per day \$1.50

		<i>Rate per ton</i>
Cutters . . . . .		\$1.12
Handers . . . . .		60—69 cents
Packers . . . . .		69 cents
Tractor drivers . . . . .		09—22 cents
Truck drivers . . . . .		21½ cents

*Estate Female Labourers*  
per day \$1.03—\$1.19

Farming (weeding) cotton . . . . .	per acre	\$1.26—\$1.47
Picking cotton . . . . .	per 100 lb.	\$3.30
Cleaning cotton . . . . .	per 100 lb.	\$1.20
Pulling cotton . . . . .	per acre	\$1.56—\$1.65
Heaping cotton . . . . .	per acre	40 cents
Burning cotton . . . . .	per acre	26 cents
Cleaning up field . . . . .	per acre	\$3.34

*Ginnery Male Labourers*  
per day \$1.50

*Ginnery Female Labourers*  
per day \$1.03

Wage rates in other occupations were:

*Artisans*: per day, various rates, average perhaps about \$5.20

*Road Maintenance*: Male Labourers, per day, \$2.64

*Road Maintenance*: Female Labourers, per day, \$1.84

*Commercial Store Clerks*: Male, per week, \$8.00 to \$20.00

*Commercial Store Clerks*: Female, per week, \$6.00 to \$15.00

*Domestic Servants*: Female, per week, \$4.00 to \$7.00

The normal pattern of overtime rates is time and one half for ordinary week days, and double time on Sundays and public holidays.

Bonuses are paid in all industries, and the Government gives its temporary workers a bonus in December.

All weekly, fortnightly, monthly, or yearly paid employees and all other employees who work for the same employer for 240 and 150 days respectively in any period of 12 consecutive months are, under the provisions of the Holidays with Pay Ordinance, 1956, entitled to an annual holiday with pay of 14 working days. Termination of employment (before qualifying) for whatsoever cause, does not cancel a worker's holiday; he must at termination of his employment be deemed to have taken his holiday and be paid holiday pay proportionate to his service.

The working week varies in different classes of employment between 40 and 48 hours.

There is no night work by women in any industrial undertaking.

#### COST OF LIVING

The Retail Price Index issued by the Labour Department once a quarter is based upon the sampling of prices on 229 items arranged into 12 groups, as follows:

	<i>Number of Items</i>
Cereals	11
Meat and Fish	20
Dairy Produce, Oils and Fats	12
Fruit and Vegetables	18
Other Foods, and Beverages	15
Liquor and Tobacco	13
Textiles, Clothing, Footwear	48 (Men, Women and Children)
Toilet Accessories, Cleaning Materials and Medicines	31
Household Goods and Tools	24
Fuel and Light	9
Transport	10
Building Materials	18
Total	229

The index does not measure rents, or the cost of services, e.g. hairdressing, public transport fares, entertainment, upkeep of clothing and footwear, nor does it measure insurance costs.

Prices at 15th October, 1951, are taken as "Base" = 100 and surveys are conducted quarterly. Weightings both within and between the "groups" were based on the estimated consumption of the entire population.

The index of retail price movements for 1957 and 1958 was:

<i>Year</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>November</i>
1957 .	120.2	121.2	121.7	121.7
1958 .	123.6	124.4	124.7	124.9

The following table shows the actual retail prices of the principal items of food-stuffs:

*Prices of Foodstuffs*

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>	<i>1958</i>
		<i>June</i>	<i>December</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>December</i>
Rice . .	lb.	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.17	\$ 0.17
Cornmeal . .	lb.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14
Flour . .	lb.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12
Cooking Oil . .	qt.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72
Margarine . .	lb.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72
Salt Pork . .	lb.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63
Salt Fish . .	lb.	0.42	0.42	0.48	0.48
Fresh Fish . .	lb.	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.31
Dried Peas . .	lb.	0.24	0.30	0.33	0.32
Fresh Meat . .	lb.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.49
Fresh Milk . .	qt.	0.12	0.12	0.15	0.15
Onions . .	lb.	0.24	0.24	0.26	0.24
Ground Provisions	lb.	0.15	0.15	0.16	0.16
Sugar, grey crystals	lb.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
Cocoa . .	½ lb.	0.37	0.37	0.38	0.38

#### LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The Labour Department maintains only one office, which is in the capital, Basseterre, St. Christopher. Its main duties are:

- (a) to foster and help to maintain good industrial relations;
- (b) to investigate all representations whether of employers or of workers concerning any business, trade, occupation, or employment, with a view to the settlement of disputes and grievances, and to conciliation, especially concerning hours of work and regulation of wages; and to report thereon to the Administrator who is official Member in charge of Labour, and to provide free conciliation service;

- (c) to encourage, assist, and advise upon the establishment and operation of joint negotiating and consultative machinery;
- (d) to advise both workers and employers upon matters connected with the safety, health and welfare of workpeople;
- (e) to collect and analyse statistics with particular reference to
  - (i) employment and unemployment
  - (ii) wage rates and earnings
  - (iii) employment of women, young persons and children
  - (iv) cost of living
  - (v) hours of work
  - (vi) occupational accidents and diseases
- (f) to advise the Government with regard to the betterment of industrial relations, and generally on all labour matters, and
- (g) to ensure that the requirements of the Labour Laws are observed.

The Department does not run a labour exchange but, wherever possible, endeavours to provide equivalent facilities as, for instance, in the handling of workers emigrating to the United States under the scheme operated by the Regional Labour Board. The Department also functions as an exchange in connection with the registration and rotation of port workers.

#### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Of the trade unions registered during the period under review, three were active in representing their members—two workers' and one employer's union. Of the others, two were moribund and were winding up their affairs, the third, a splinter union, was only active in organisational activity.

Wages in the larger sectors of employment are arrived at by collective bargaining, and the influence of the St. Kitts-Nevis Trade and Labour Union is such that other wages generally tend to remain in line with negotiated wages.

Industrial relations were satisfactory; there was no major stoppage of work and such disputes as arose were for the most part settled on the spot, or in rare cases at formal meetings between representatives of the workers' and employer's unions. Three differences arising out of the annual wage negotiations were settled by conciliation in the Labour Department. A breakdown in the sugar industry wage negotiations between the Sugar Producers' Association and the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union was referred to the Administrator for settlement.

**SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE**

In general, safety, health and welfare standards leave much to be desired, but progress, though slow, has been made.

In sugar manufacturing, which is by far the largest industry in the colony, and the second largest employer of labour, safety standards are generally satisfactory, and health and welfare facilities compare favourably with similar conditions elsewhere in the West Indies.

Workers on sugar estates are entitled to medical attention at the employers' expense, but employers have not yet either jointly or severally organised health services for their workers. Estates have however made a beginning in providing welfare facilities for their workers.

**INDUSTRIAL TRAINING**

There are no organised schemes for the training of adult workers, or for the rehabilitation of the disabled, but some industrial training in building crafts, motor mechanics, welding, engineering and metal working, are available through schemes operated by the Craftsman Selection Board (under Government auspices) and the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory Co. Ltd. These two sources provided training for 110 apprentices in 1957, and 89 in 1958. The Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies provided courses at the sugar factory.

***Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation***

THE colony's financial year runs from the 1st January to the 31st December.

**REVENUE**

Colony revenue, less self-balancing items, as originally estimated for 1957 and 1958 is shown below against actual collection for 1957 and revised estimates for 1958:

	1957	1958
	\$	\$
Estimate . . . . .	4,794,902	4,532,882
Actual Revenue . . . . .	4,066,713	<i>not available</i>
Revised Estimate . . . . .	—	4,389,646

The following table shows the actual revenue for 1956 and 1957 and the revised estimate of revenue for 1958 under the main heads:

	<i>1956 Actual</i>	<i>Per cent. of True Reve- nue</i>	<i>1957 Actual</i>	<i>Per cent. of True Reve- nue</i>	<i>1958 Revised</i>	<i>Per cent. of True Reve- nue</i>
<i>Revenue from Taxation</i>	\$		\$		\$	
Income Tax . . .	1,076,115	28.5	1,078,596	26.5	1,377,043	31.4
Other Taxes . . .	138,675	3.7	162,003	4.0	194,983	4.4
<i>Total Direct Taxes</i> . . .	1,214,790	32.2	1,240,599	30.5	1,572,026	35.8
Customs and Excise . . .	1,613,362	42.7	1,713,353	42.1	1,855,795	42.3
Licences . . .	52,003	1.4	57,195	1.5	57,612	1.3
Other Internal Revenue . . .	190,206	5.0	306,245	7.5	179,944	4.1
<i>Total Tax Revenue</i> . . .	3,070,361	81.3	3,317,392	81.6	3,665,377	83.5
Fees of Court or Office . . .	18,675	.5	21,961	.5	21,625	.5
Post Office Telephones . . .						
Electricity and Cold Storage . . .	321,280	8.5	432,677	10.6	326,049	7.4
Other Items . . .	367,836	9.7	294,683	7.3	376,595	8.6
<i>Total True Revenue</i> . . .	3,778,152	100.0	4,066,713	100.0	4,389,646	100.0

Revenue per head of population for these years was as shown in the following table:

Estimated Population . . .	<i>1956</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>
	<u>55,300</u>	<u>57,500</u>	<u>58,500</u>
	\$ c.	\$ c.	\$ c.
Direct Taxation . . .	21.97	21.57	26.87
Indirect Taxation . . .	33.55	36.12	35.78
Tax Revenue per head . . .	55.52	57.69	62.65
Other sources of Revenue . . .	12.79	13.03	12.38
	<u>68.31</u>	<u>70.72</u>	<u>75.03</u>

#### EXPENDITURE

The following table shows both the main heads of recurrent expenditure, grouped in accordance with the existing Ministries, and percentages which each item bears to the true local expenditure of the colony:

	1956 Actual	Per cent- age	1957 Actual	Per cent- age	1958 Revised	Per cent- age
Administration . . .	\$ 714,543	18.1	\$ 764,226	18.1	\$ 797,627	18.3
Legal . . .	54,837	1.4	67,264	1.6	70,470	1.6
Finance . . .	454,799	11.5	564,318	13.4	612,708	14.0
Trade and Production . . .	285,947	7.2	264,672	6.3	324,345	7.4
Communications and Works . . .	1,040,105	26.3	1,089,845	25.9	979,358	22.5
Social Services . . .	1,407,478	35.5	1,460,133	34.7	1,579,111	36.2
Total . . .	3,957,709	100.0	4,210,458	100.0	4,363,619	100.0

### DEVELOPMENT

The 1955-60 Development Plan for 1955-60 envisaged the expenditure of \$6,175,000 to be financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, general revenue, and loans raised on the local and London markets.

As a result, however, of a further grant of \$456,000 by Her Majesty's Government under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, a revision of the plan has been undertaken, and certain adjustments have been made in order that full advantage may be taken of the funds now available during the period of the plan.

A loan of \$660,000 was raised locally in two parts in 1958 for the issue of 6 per cent. Bearer Debentures at 98.

Included among the schemes which are expected to promote economic development in the colony are: agricultural development of the island of Nevis; the provision of additional generating equipment to supply St. Kitts and Nevis with adequate electricity at economic rates, and the enlargement of the Golden Rock Airport to accommodate main line air traffic. Provision has also been made for a school building programme.

### PUBLIC DEBT

The colony's Public Debt at 31st December, 1957, amounted to \$987,738. This sum includes \$27,737 in respect of Colonial Development and Welfare loans and \$48,000 in respect of a loan from Imperial funds for reconstruction of buildings, etc. damaged by earthquake; the terms of repayment of the latter loan have not yet been settled. Debt charges in respect of 1957 amounted to \$73,574.

The Public Debt at 31st December, 1958, was estimated at \$1,647,000.

Advances from the Joint Miscellaneous Fund in anticipation of the raising of a loan on the London Market for development projects amounted to some \$800,000 at the end of 1958.

## TAXATION

### *Customs Duties*

There were no significant changes affecting the rates of customs duties during the period under review. The rate of duty payable on the majority of the goods imported is 10 per cent. *ad valorem* Preferential and 15 per cent. *ad valorem* General, with a surtax of 12½ per cent. on the amount of such duty. The duty payable on motor cars, motor cycles and other motor vehicles was at the rates of 10 per cent. and 30 per cent. *ad valorem* up to 31st December, 1958. With effect from 1st January, 1959, however, these rates were amended to 20 per cent. and 40 per cent. respectively by a resolution passed by the Legislative Council on 15th December, 1958.

Export duty is levied on certain commodities when exported from the colony, the main items being:

	<i>Rate</i>
Cotton, Clean, Grown in St. Kitts	per lb. 8 cents
Cotton, Clean, Grown in Nevis and Anguilla	per lb. 6 cents
Salt, Coarse	per barrel of 300 lb. 12 cents
Sugar, Grey Crystal	per ton \$8.58

Exemption or relief from taxation is provided for, subject to certain conditions, under the Hotels Aid Ordinance and the Pioneer Industries Ordinance.

### *Land Tax*

Land tax is payable as follows:

On all cultivated land in the island of St. Christopher at the rate per annum of \$4 per acre; on all uncultivated land in the island of St. Christopher at the rate per annum of \$1.00 per acre; on all uncultivated land in either of the islands of Nevis or Anguilla at the rate per annum of \$1.00 per acre.

### *House Tax*

House tax is payable as follows:

On every house lot in either of the islands of St. Christopher or Nevis of and above the annual gross rental value of \$48.00 at the rate per annum of 5 per cent. on the annual gross rental value; on every house lot in the island of Anguilla of and above the annual gross rental value of \$57.60 at the rate per annum of 5 per cent. on the annual gross rental value.

**Income Tax**

Income tax is charged under the St. Kitts-Nevis and Anguilla Ordinance No. 10 of 1945, as amended. It is based upon the income of the year preceding that in which the tax is actually charged.

Residents are assessed on income accruing in, derived from or received in the colony, and non-residents on income accruing in, or derived from the colony, whether received in the colony or not.

The following personal allowances are granted:

(1) *Earned Income Relief*. An amount equal to one-tenth of the earned income, i.e. income derived from a trade, profession, business, from employment, or from agriculture provided that the individual is actively engaged in the procuring of income from that source. This relief is subject to a maximum of \$720 (Ord. No. 25/58).

(2) *Resident or British Subject Relief*. An individual who is resident in the colony or who is a British subject is allowed a deduction of \$1,000.

(3) *Allowance in respect of a Wife*. A further allowance of \$600 is given to a married man whose wife was living with or was maintained by him during the year of account (Ord. No. 25/58).

(4) *Child Relief*. There is allowed in respect of each child under the age of 13 who attended some school or other educational establishment during the year of account and in respect of each child under the age of 16 who did not attend such school, etc., an amount of \$300 (Ord. No. 25/58).

(5) *Dependent Relative Relief*. A total relief of \$120 is given for any dependent relative who is unable through old age or infirmity to maintain himself, and for the mother of an individual or his wife whether she is able to work or not.

Provided that if more than one individual contributes to the support of the individual, the total relief is divided proportionately between them.

(6) *Relief in respect of Contributions to an Approved Pension Scheme or Superannuation Fund*. Any amount paid by an individual to an approved pension scheme or superannuation fund is allowed as deduction before granting relief under head (1) above.

(7) *Life Insurance Relief*. The total premium paid to an insurance company in respect of the life of an individual, or that of his wife, is allowed as a deduction provided that this amount does not exceed one-sixth of the income remaining after giving relief under heads (1), (2), and (5) above.

*Rates of Tax*

The tax upon the chargeable income of every person other than a company is as follows:

on every pound of the first £100 of chargeable income	6d. in the £
" " next £100 (from £100 to £200)	1s. 0d. "
" " „ £100 (from £201 to £300)	1s. 6d. "
" " „ £100 (from £301 to £400)	2s. 0d. "
" " „ £100 (from £401 to £500)	2s. 6d. "
" " „ £100 (from £501 to £600)	3s. 0d. "
" " „ £200 (from £601 to £800)	4s. 0d. "
" " „ £300 (from £801 to £1,100)	5s. 0d. "
" " „ £400 (from £1,101 to £1,500)	7s. 0d. "
" " „ £500 (from £1,501 to £2,000)	9s. 0d. "
" " „ £500 (from £2,001 to £2,500)	10s. 0d. "
" " „ £500 (from £2,501 to £3,000)	12s. 0d. "
" " „ £500 (from £3,001 to £3,500)	13s. 0d. "
" " „ £500 (from £3,501 to £4,000)	14s. 0d. "
On every pound beyond £4,000	15s. 0d. "

The rate of tax upon the chargeable income of a company is 8s. 0d. on every pound of the chargeable income.

Assessments made for the years 1956 (based upon the income of the year 1955) and 1957 (based upon the income of the year 1956) and the incidence of tax on individuals, at varying rates of income, and on companies are shown in the following table:

Group	1956		1957	
	Number	Tax	Number	Tax
£      £		\$    c.		\$    c.
100— 200	.	.	—	—
201— 300	.	.	120	392.58
301— 400	.	.	119	1,365.22
401— 500	.	.	93	2,084.96
501— 600	.	.	59	1,803.19
601— 800	.	.	82	6,332.36
801—1,100	.	.	80	14,471.39
1,101—1,500	.	.	44	11,055.72
1,501—2,000	.	.	38	30,048.24
2,001—2,500	.	.	13	18,789.84
2,501—3,000	.	.	8	26,987.97
3,001—3,500	.	.	4	9,059.04
3,501—4,000	.	.	4	16,781.81
Beyond 4,000	.	.	18	182,962.50
Companies	.	.	40	693,282.51

## *Chapter 4: Currency and Banking*

THE Currency Act, No. 4 of 1950, was designed to implement an agreement between the British colonies in the Eastern Caribbean to provide for a uniform currency, and a Board of Commissioners of Currency was constituted by the appointment by the Secretary of State of five Commissioners, one each from Barbados, British Guiana, the Leeward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and the Windward Islands.

Notes of the British Caribbean Currency Board (\$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$100) and coin are legal tender throughout the colony. The notes in use are predominantly those of the British Caribbean Currency Board. The dollar system of accounting is used by the Government, the banks and commercial houses.

The rate of exchange is \$4.80 B.W.I. to £1 sterling.

Barclays Bank, D.C.O., and the Royal Bank of Canada each operate a branch in St. Kitts. The former also has agency representation in Nevis as from 2nd July, 1958. A co-operative bank in Nevis was opened in 1955 as the Nevis Co-operative Bank; the St. Kitts Industrial Bank Ltd. and the Mercantile Bank (St. Kitts) Ltd. were incorporated in St. Kitts in 1958. These latter three banks are small private local enterprises.

The value of British Caribbean Currency Notes and Coin in circulation in the colony on 31st December, 1958, was:

British Caribbean Currency Notes . . . . .	\$1,339,952
British Caribbean Coin . . . . .	£51,403

The commercial banks T.T. rates for buying and selling at 31st December, 1958, were:

	Buying	Selling
Sterling . . . . .	477.90	482.70
U.S. . . . .	70.4%	72.4%
Canadian . . . . .	76.8%	78.8%
Curacao Guilders . . . . .	86 cents	89 cents
<i>Notes</i>		
U.S. . . . .	68.9%	72.4%
Canadian . . . . .	75.3%	78.8%

A Government Savings Bank is established in all three islands of the colony under the management of the Accountant General. The amounts on deposit increased from \$1,028,218 in 1957 to \$1,068,290 at 31st December, 1958.

The Savings Bank (Amendment) Ordinance No. 10 of 1957 raises the proportion of the deposits which may be invested in securities of the Government of the colony from one-third to one-half.

## Chapter 5: Commerce

	1956 \$	1957 \$	1958 \$
Imports . . .	10,126,914	10,345,877	11,358,149
Exports* . . .	9,771,571	9,865,680	9,428,091

\*Including re-exports: 1956 \$344,000; 1957 \$332,000; 1958 not available.

### *Principal Items Imported in 1956, 1957 and 1958*

Commodity	Quantity				Value		
	Unit	1956	1957	1958	1956	1957	1958
Flour (wheaten) . . .	lb.	8,055,100	8,783,200	8,583,000	666,659	668,478	685,184
Fish (all kinds) . . .	lb.	1,102,129	1,008,703	1,084,475	360,255	361,259	349,692
Grains (all kinds) . . .	lb.	2,722,015	3,471,013	2,686,046	314,986	389,287	346,157
Sugar . . .	lb.	229,445	149,267	not available	27,869	22,404	not available
Timber(unmanufactured)	feet	1,317,743	1,240,041	1,611,699	409,330	393,914	455,218
Butter and Butter Substitutes	lb.	458,820	419,363	460,596	210,379	204,659	210,308
Meat (all kinds) . . .	lb.	736,644	646,138	847,840	370,662	346,033	362,456
Boots and Shoes . . .	pair	94,804	107,988	94,956	260,020	273,058	246,082
Cotton and Rayon Piece goods	yard	971,496	848,597	595,058	475,230	447,223	276,719
Apparel . . .	—	—	—	—	256,041	184,563	198,039
Oils (non-edible) . . .	gal.	1,098,842	1,203,446	1,197,899	308,404	400,317	359,728

### *Principal Items Exported in 1956, 1957 and 1958*

Commodity	Quantity				Value		
	Unit	1956	1957	1958	1956	1957	1958
Sugar . . .	ton	47,951	42,255	39,758	8,394,969	8,725,728	7,836,031
Molasses . . .	gal.	1,991,115	1,624,182	1,266,259	234,603	464,865	185,411
Cotton Lint . . .	lb.	637,107	498,256	779,841	657,284	464,360	823,603
Salt . . .	lb.	2,108,700	2,146,800	21,371*	29,102	44,524	69,351
Copra . . .	lb.	319,704	268,196	not available	42,146	34,958	not available

\* barrels.

## Chapter 6: Production

### LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

	<i>Acres</i>
Arable land . . . . .	28,000
Land for growing tree-crops, vines or shrubs . . . . .	9,000
Permanent meadow and pasture . . . . .	6,000
Wood or forest land . . . . .	18,000
All other lands . . . . .	35,000
Total . . . . .	<u>96,000</u>

There is no legislation in the colony which deals with soil conservation and the control of cultivation on steeply sloping lands. Contour cultivation to check soil erosion is now general practice on estates in St. Kitts. Government land settlements in St. Kitts and Nevis are cultivated on the contour and have been bounded with *khus khus* grass at 6 feet to 10 feet vertical intervals and, where necessary, storm drains on the contour have been provided.

The upper areas of the mountain slopes in St. Kitts and Nevis are protected under the Forestry Ordinance of 1903 and 1928.

Land in the colony is owned as follows:

<i>Owned by</i>	<i>Arable land</i>	<i>Permanent meadow and pasture</i>	<i>Forest land</i>
Indigenous inhabitants . . . . .	18,000	3,000	13,000
Non-indigenous inhabitants . . . . .	7,500	2,000	2,000
Government . . . . .	2,700	1,100	3,000

Most of the land in the colony is held freehold in units ranging from 100 to 600 acres. In St. Kitts the pattern is that basically all privately owned units are cultivated as estates, although the upper lands are frequently allocated to peasants and estate workers on a monthly basis. The plots are usually rented free in the case of estate workers and for others the metayer system is used, the estate taking one-third of the produce in lieu of rent. The settlers on the three Government land settlements hold their land on short-term leases. In Nevis the pattern differs in that only five privately owned estates are cultivated as units. The remainder are rented to small farmers usually on an annual basis, the landlord receiving one-third of the crop or cash. The pattern in Anguilla is similar to that in Nevis, except that the only large holdings operated as units are used for sheep and cattle raising.

Under the provisions of the Agricultural Small Holding Act, contracts can be arranged between the owners of land and cultivators, and the Act provides adequate security of tenure for peasants. The Act does not compel either party to enter into a contract.

In 1951 a grant of £18,460 was obtained from Colonial Development and Welfare funds for financing a group farm pilot project in Nevis. The project is based on the thesis that optimum land usage can only be achieved if adequate capital is invested in it and if skilled control of farming operations can be secured. The objective is, therefore, to lease a group of men a unit of land into which enough capital has been sunk to enable it to be put to the best possible use, and to subject that group, through the terms of their lease, to a degree of control sufficient to ensure that they follow good agricultural practices. Two Government land settlement estates—Cades Bay and Spring Hill—are being developed for the pilot project. So far, satisfactory progress has been made with the cultivation on a normal estate basis of sugar-cane, cotton, ground provisions and green vegetables on the properties. A start was made with the raising of livestock on the area but it was finally decided to cease operations until the pasturage could be substantially improved.

In 1955 the development of Potwork Estate was begun along lines similar to the pilot project. So far, satisfactory progress has been made with the cultivation of sugar-cane, cotton, coconuts, ground provisions and maize. No settlement has yet been made on any of these three estates.

There are Government land settlements in the three islands of the colony. In St. Kitts there are three estates (900 acres), 13 in Nevis (4,374 acres) and three in Anguilla (300 acres).

One estate owned by Government in Nevis and three in Anguilla have been settled on a lease-purchase system. All these estates were purchased and subdivided before 1939.

The details and terms of settlement on the project referred to above on unoccupied areas on Government-owned lands, and for settlers already having short term agreements, were to be reviewed in 1959.

#### AGRICULTURE

The general pattern of agriculture in the three islands is described in the previous section. There is an increasing interest in the production of auxiliary crops, e.g. cocoa, citrus and pineapples. The major crops are as follows:

**Sugar.** Production in the crop years 1956–57 and 1957–58 (harvested 1957 and 1958) was as follows:

<i>St. Kitts</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>
Total acreage under sugar-cane . . . .	12,745.25	13,404.50
Acreage harvested . . . .	13,194	12,209
Total cane ground . . . . (tons)	363,165	385,364
Total sugar produced (96° grey crystals) (tons)	44,794	42,498
Average yield of cane per acre (tons)	26.85	31.11
Vacuum pan molasses produced. (gal.)	1,754,021	1,969,080

<i>Nevis</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>
Total approximate acreage under sugar-cane	900	900
Acreage harvested . . . .	780	800
Total cane produced . . . . (tons)	9,479	5,824
Yield of cane per acre (tons)	12.15	7.28
Canes purchased by Government for shipment to St. Kitts . . . . (tons)	9,087	5,824
Canes received at weighing station at St. Kitts . . . . (tons)	8,864	5,543
Muscovado sugar produced for local consumption . . . . (tons)	44.7	—

*Note:* No muscovado sugar was produced after 1957.

In general the standard of sugar-cane cultivation in St. Kitts improved with the better use of mechanical cultivation and the greater use of fertilisers. The use of new varieties which had proved themselves was general. The main cultivation is on estates.

The sugar-cane grown by peasants is chiefly on the Government land settlement estates. In 1957 and 1958 peasants cultivated 502 and 475 acres respectively. The yield of sugar in 1957 from estates' cane was 3.40 tons per acre and from peasants' cane 2.31 tons per acre. In 1958 the figures were 3.48 tons and 2.56 tons respectively.

In Nevis, owing mainly to the cost and difficulties of transportation, the interest in, and standard of, sugar-cane cultivation tended to decline.

*Sea Island Cotton.* In Nevis and Anguilla the cotton crop is planted in September and reaped from February to April of the following year. In St. Kitts the crop had hitherto been planted in May and reaped in August–October, but following the failure of the 1955 crop the planting date was changed to August. Acreage planted and production in the crop years 1956–57 and 1957–58 were:

<i>St. Kitts</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>1958</i>
Acreage planted . . . .	627	883
Total production of lint . . . . (lb.)	180,126	235,320
Total production of clean lint . . . . (lb.)	165,045	206,836
Total production of stains . . . . (lb.)	15,081	28,484
Yield of clean lint per acre . . . . (lb.)	263	234
Percentage of stains . . . .	8	12

*Nevis*

		1957	1958
Acreage planted		2,034	3,190
Total production of lint	(lb.)	243,990	548,727
Total production of clean lint	(lb.)	212,601	496,834
Total production of stains	(lb.)	31,389	51,893
Yield of clean lint per acre		104.5	155.7
Percentage of stains		12.9	9.5

*Anguilla*

		1957	1958
Acreage planted		60	35
Total production of lint	(lb.)	3,492	1,536
Total production of clean lint	(lb.)	3,404	1,494
Total production of stains	(lb.)	88	42
Yield of clean lint per acre	(lb.)	57	42
Percentage of stains		2.5	2.7

The production of cotton in St. Kitts is increasing although, owing to the change in planting season, it can no longer be used as an intermediate crop between old ratoon sugar-cane and replanting. In Nevis production fluctuates according to price, season, infestation by pests and the availability of labour.

In St. Kitts and Nevis the use of fertilisers is increasing although much more experimental work on their efficient application is necessary before they are generally adopted. Quality standards remain high and the use of high grade seed is general.

*Food Crops.* The following are the main food crops grown in the colony: sweet potatoes, yams, cassavas, maize, tannias, dasheen, eddoes, pigeon peas, blackeye peas, beans, bananas, green vegetables (tomatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, onion, egg plant, beet, lettuce, etc.).

There are no reliable current figures for the area of these crops grown in the islands nor of total production. Nevis has a higher ratio of food crops to export crops and helps to supply St. Kitts with food.

Anguilla produces pigeon peas and guinea corn in excess of its own requirements.

There is little doubt that far greater quantities of these crops could be produced and absorbed locally, but much will depend on the development of more economic methods of cultivation, supplemented by organised marketing.

*Coconuts.* Systematic coconut cultivation is confined to Nevis. The relevant figures are:

		1957	1958
Acreage under coconuts (excluding scattered trees)		680	685
Exports of copra (to Barbados)	(tons)	134.79	106.55
Seed nuts exported	(No.)	2,000	4,024

### *Processing*

**Sugar.** All sugar-cane in St. Kitts and Nevis is processed at the factory in St. Kitts owned by the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory Ltd., a company registered in the United Kingdom. Production figures are shown on page 20.

	1957	1958
Tons cane per ton 96° sugar . . . . .	8.11 tons	9.07 tons

The production of Muscovado sugar in Nevis ceased in 1957.

**Cotton.** There are four privately owned cotton ginneries in St. Kitts, but only three have been operated during the past two years.

### *Output of Ginneries, St. Kitts*

	1957		1958	
	<i>Clean lint</i>	<i>Stains</i>	<i>Clean lint</i>	<i>Stains</i>
	64,802	7,524	102,195	15,474
Spooners Factory (lb.)	55,835	5,831	75,934	11,396
Estridge Ginnery (lb.)	24,444	2,480	28,707	2,309
Stonefort Ginnery (lb.)				

West Farm Ginnery did not operate.

In Nevis all cotton is ginned by the ginnery operated by the Marketing Division of the Department of Agriculture.

### *Output of Nevis Ginnery*

	<i>Clean lint</i>		<i>Stains</i>		<i>Seed sold for crushing</i>
	<i>Bales</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>Bales</i>	<i>lb.</i>	<i>(tons)</i>
1957 . . . . .	425	212,601	63	31,389	169.75
1958 . . . . .	993	496,834	87	51,893*	439.05

\*Includes small amounts returned to growers unbaled.

In Anguilla there is one ginnery in operation which is owned and operated by Messrs. C. Rey & Co. Output in 1957 was 14 bales (3,404 lb.) clean lint and 88 lb. stained lint. The ginnery did not operate in 1958, and the Anguilla crop was ginned in St. Kitts.

The Spooners Cotton Factory operated an oil extraction plant which produces cotton seed oil for local use. The residue of cotton seed cake is sold as meal for feeding to livestock. Cotton seed purchased by Spooners Cotton Factory is shown in the following table:

	1957		1958	
	Prime seed	2nd quality seed	Prime seed	2nd quality seed
Nevis Ginnery (tons) St.Kitts Gineries (tons) Price paid per ton .	148.72 149 \$50.00	— 7.17 \$25.00	185.4 439 \$50.00	10.23 10.04 \$25.00
Cooking Oil Production (gallons)		13,025		13,870

In 1957, 20 tons of second quality seed were shipped from Nevis to Antigua. The 1958 crop of second quality seed, amounting to 41.5 tons, had not been shipped from Nevis to Spooners up to the end of the year.

*Maize.* In St. Kitts the Government owns a plant for processing maize. It consists of a drier, sheller and mill which are used to a limited extent each year. Production of maize falls far short of the capacity of the plant.

### Marketing

The sugar crop is marketed by the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory Ltd. through its London agents. In 1957 the factory's quota of sugar for export amounted to 40,243 tons of which 29,535 tons were sold to the Sugar Board at the negotiated price of £42 3s. 4d. per ton c.i.f., including £2 15s. 0d. per ton payable to the St. Kitts Government as special funds for price stabilisation, rehabilitation and labour welfare. The average price received for the crop was £42 1s. 1d. per ton f.o.b. The total price paid by the factory to contractors for canes was \$16.52 per ton. Outside suppliers received \$15.96 per ton. The price of grey crystal sugar for local consumption was controlled at 0.08 cents per lb. There was no control price for washed sugar. The value of the molasses exported was £103,751.

In 1958, the factory's quota of sugar for export amounted to 37,417 tons of which 29,802 tons were sold to the Sugar Board at the negotiated price of £43 16s. 8d. per ton c.i.f., including £2 15s. 0d. per ton payable to the St. Kitts Government in respect of the special funds referred to above. The remainder of the crop, after allowing for local sales, was sold on the open market and averaged about £2 8s. 6d. less than the negotiated price. The average price received for the crop was £39 14s. 3d. per ton f.o.b. The total price paid by the factory to contractors for canes was \$13.00 per ton. Outside suppliers received \$12.48 per ton. The value of the molasses exported was £50,669.

In Nevis purchases of sugar-cane and transport arrangements are made by the Department of Agriculture. Government collects a marketing commission of 5.5 per cent. on the gross proceeds from sales of cotton lint and seed and 1.5 per cent. on the proceeds from sales of canes.

The cotton crop in St. Kitts is marketed as baled lint through local agents. In 1957 and 1958 the crops were sold to spinners in the United Kingdom at \$1.16 per lb., and \$1.17 per lb. respectively, f.o.b. St. Kitts. These prices are for clean lint, Grade I.

Purchases and prices of the cotton crop for 1957 and 1958 were as shown in the following table:

	<i>Clean seed cotton purchased by Marketing Dept.</i>	<i>Price paid to growers</i>	<i>Stains</i>	<i>Price paid to growers</i>
1957 . .	lb. 649,256	c. 32.5	lb. 80,660	c. 10
1958 . .	1,567,790	30.0	43,502	3*

\*3 cent advance made; part of crop still on hand.

#### *Department of Agriculture and Fisheries*

The principal members of the staff of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries at 30th December, 1958, comprised:

Director of Agriculture

#### *St. Kitts Division*

- Agricultural Superintendent
- One Agricultural Assistant
- One Sugar-cane Experiment Officer
- One Food Production Officer
- One Senior Agricultural Instructor
- Two Agricultural Instructors
- One Cotton Inspector
- The Manager, Livestock and Dairy Farm
- The Foreman, Experimental Station

#### *Nevis Division*

- The Agricultural Officer
- The Agricultural Engineer
- The Marketing Officer
- Four Senior Marketing Assistants

The Land Officer  
The Cotton Inspector  
Four Senior Agricultural Instructors  
Three Agricultural Instructors  
The Foreman, Experimental Station

*Anguilla Division*

The Agricultural Officer  
The Foreman, Agricultural Station

The agricultural policy of the colony is:

- (1) The conservation of soil and the maintenance and improvement of soil fertility.
- (2) The control of pests and diseases of crops.
- (3) The improvement of peasant agriculture.
- (4) The development of livestock industries in St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla.
- (5) The improvement of crop yields by the introduction of new and better varieties of crop plants and by the improvement of manurial and cultivation practices.
- (6) The encouragement of the production of local food crops.

*Efforts to Improve Production*

*Sugar-cane.* The Agricultural Department conducts varietal, manurial, spacing and cultivation experiments with sugar-cane each year in co-operation with the research committee of the St. Kitts Sugar Association and the owners and managers of estates. The experiments are laid down on the estates by officers of the Department and planted, manured and reaped under the supervision of these officers. The results of the experiments are printed and published annually. A small number of cuttings of new cane varieties is received each year by the Department from the British West Indies Central Sugar-cane Breeding Station at Barbados. These are planted at the Government Experimental Station and here the varieties are multiplied for planting observation plots on estates and nurseries and thus obtaining sufficient planting material for varietal trials. The Government of the colony makes an annual contribution to the Central Sugar-cane Breeding Station at Barbados.

*Cotton.* Multiplication plots are planted each year in St. Kitts and Nevis with pedigree seed obtained from the cotton station in Montserrat for maintaining the purity of the seed which is used for planting the commercial crops in the two islands. Fertilisers and cultivation experiments are carried out in both islands.

**Food Crops.** In St. Kitts an Agricultural Assistant is employed on advisory and demonstration work among the peasants who grow food crops on the upper lands of estates. The work of this officer has resulted in an increase in the yields of crops grown on these upper land areas.

Agricultural extension work in the colony has been limited owing to the lack of trained personnel on the staff of the Department. Within the last four years five officers have returned after completing a course of training at the Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute and five officers are at present attending a similar course. In the near future the position should be greatly improved.

Credit facilities are provided by Government for peasants in St. Kitts and Nevis to enable them to obtain their requirements of artificial manures, insecticides, mechanical cultivation and agricultural tools. These facilities have now been extended to enable peasants in Anguilla to obtain supplies of fencing wire for their paddocks on easy terms.

#### *Marketing Depot*

A Marketing Depot was opened in Basseterre by Government during 1958. It is hoped that in time this depot will handle (wholesale) most of the vegetables marketed in Basseterre; vegetables purchased in Nevis by the Marketing Division in that island will also be sent to this depot for sale in Basseterre.

Fish from the Fishery Department will be sold in the depot, and it is expected that meat, which will be properly cut, will also be available.

#### **ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**

Statistics of livestock on farms at the 1946 census are set out in the following table:

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Mules</i>	<i>Donkeys</i>	<i>Swine</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Goats</i>	<i>Poultry</i>
St. Kitts .	3,175	301	373	613	1,003	670	392	5,518
Nevis .	2,406	371	130	1,048	1,829	3,548	2,251	9,886
Anguilla .	813	10	2	118	823	2,752	1,563	4,096
Total .	6,394	682	505	1,779	3,655	6,970	4,206	19,500

Livestock are distributed as follows:

#### *St. Kitts*

	<i>No.</i>
Cattle owned by estates . . . . .	657
Cattle owned by labourers . . . . .	1,134
Cattle owned by Government . . . . .	148
Cattle on Government settlements . . . . .	50
Cattle owned by peasants and others . . . . .	1,214

Horses are almost entirely owned by estates, and the majority of mules, donkeys, swine, sheep and goats are owned by peasants.

The Department has a Livestock Station at Bayfords, at which a herd of Friesian cattle is maintained. Recently, a small herd of Jamaica Hope head has been introduced. The main objectives are to provide suitable dairy type breeding material for the colony and to investigate and demonstrate methods of improving and maintaining pastures. A number of bulls, some dairy and some beef type, are maintained at centres around the island.

### *Nevis*

The majority of cattle and sheep is owned by small farmers. The Department operates a Livestock Station at Maddens which concentrates on the Senepol (or St. Croix) breed. It is the counterpart for beef animals of Bayfords in St. Kitts. Beef type bulls are maintained at various stud centres.

### *Anguilla*

The number of livestock exported in 1957 and 1958 was:

		1957	1958
Cattle	.	119	129
Sheep	.	524	672
Goats	.	287	479
Pigs	.	391	321

Recorded exports were entirely to St. Martin and St. Bartholomew.

### *Veterinary Services*

The Veterinary Service is a division of the Agricultural Department and consists of a Veterinary Officer and one assistant. The function of this service is to maintain animal health by the control or eradication of existing diseases, and by preventing the introduction of diseases from outside the colony. A laboratory service is available and there are facilities for clinical work. Work during 1957 and 1958 included vaccination projects (Pasteurellosis, Anthrax, etc.), T.B. testing, parasite control.

### FORESTRY

There is no forestry department in the colony. The forest areas in St. Kitts and Nevis are regarded entirely as protective forest and very little exploitation is allowed. In St. Kitts there is a Forestry Board which controls the work of protecting the forest areas. The Government employs six forest rangers whose work is supervised by an agricultural assistant. There is also a Forestry Board in Nevis whose chairman is the Agricultural Officer. Nevertheless, there is still a great deal of illegal cutting of wood for burning charcoal, and forestry control remains inadequate.

**FISHERIES**

Most of the research work in connection with fisheries is being carried out under a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme and results obtained so far have been most encouraging. The scheme provides cold storage facilities for fish caught in Anguilla and it is hoped that this section of the scheme will soon be put into operation.

**MINING**

The ownership of mineral rights is vested in the Crown. No mining was carried out in the colony during the period under review.

**CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

The Nevis Co-operative Bank was started in 1955. It is now flourishing and makes a useful contribution to agricultural and other credit for the people of Nevis.

## *Chapter 7: Social Services*

**EDUCATION**

THE Education Officer is Head of the Education Department and is responsible to the Minister of Social Services; the other executive officers of the Department are the Inspector of Schools and two Educational District Officers in the islands of Nevis and Anguilla.

The Inspector of Schools is responsible for the management of primary and senior schools, and is assisted by the Educational District Officers. The primary schools are inspected annually. The five secondary schools in the territory are managed by their respective principals; matters of policy and staffing are referred to the Education Officer.

Little progress can be reported in the field of primary education and many major problems remain. These include:

- (a) the provision of adequate and suitable accommodation for all children of school age;
- (b) the provision of greater facilities for training in practical subjects;
- (c) the recruitment to the teaching service of persons with satisfactory academic backgrounds.

Free primary education is provided for all children between the ages of 5 and 16, and school attendance is compulsory for pupils up to 13 years of age. Generally speaking the large and growing primary school population is housed in inadequate and uninspiring

buildings. This situation, coupled with a shortage of qualified teachers, makes difficult the necessary re-organisation of the whole system.

The colony's Development Plan for the period 1955-60 provided for a school-building programme designed to relieve the worse cases of overcrowding in the primary schools. A Colonial Development and Welfare scheme was approved under which an architect was appointed in March, 1957, to carry out the school-building programme. Owing to lack of funds and to the amendment of the colony's Development Plan, it regrettably became necessary to curtail severely the school-building programme; the Newton Ground Junior School, opened in November, 1958 and providing accommodation for 400 children, was the only new primary school completed in the period under review.

Secondary education is available to children between the ages of 11 and 19 who pass an entrance examination or a scholarship examination. Scholarship winners attend these schools free of cost; other pupils pay modest fees. The maximum fee at any Government secondary school is \$50.40 per annum. There are 60 Government scholarships to secondary schools.

#### *Expenditure*

The cost of education in 1957 and 1958 was as follows:

	1957	1958
<i>Recurrent expenditure</i>	\$	\$
Administration	35,902	49,379
Primary and Senior	437,131	422,516
Secondary	94,333	105,799
<i>Capital expenditure</i>		
New Buildings	215,419	144,318
	<hr/> 782,785	<hr/> 722,012

In 1957 the amount spent on education was 10.2 per cent. of total expenditure in the colony and in 1958, 10.1 per cent.

#### *Pre-Primary and Primary Schools*

The play centre in Basseterre continues to be maintained from Government funds, while in the rural areas there are two pre-primary schools, one owned by the Methodist Church, the other by the Moravian Church. Small grants-in-aid are paid in support of these denominational schools. There are 33 Government primary schools in the colony with an enrolment of 14,942 pupils for whom education is entirely free; 331 teachers (including 110 pupil teachers) are employed in these schools. In the majority of them there is serious overcrowding.

There are two senior or post-primary schools in the colony and the Charlestown Secondary School in Nevis and the Valley Secondary School in Anguilla also have post-primary departments. These schools which offer facilities for practical work have emphasised the necessity of providing throughout the colony similar schools for all children over the age of 11. At the end of 1958 there were 3,329 pupils over the age of 11 attending primary schools.

### *Secondary Schools*

In St. Kitts there are separate Government schools for boys and girls, and a mixed denominational school. In Nevis and Anguilla there are mixed schools. Courses in the secondary schools generally lead to the Overseas School Certificate Examination of Cambridge University. At the Boys' Grammar School, the Cambridge Higher School Certificate examination is taken. The Leeward Islands Scholarship, competed for by secondary school pupils throughout the Leeward Islands, is annually awarded on the results of the Higher School Certificate Examination.

Pupils from any other secondary school in the colony who have passed the School Certificate Examination are eligible for admission to the VIth Form of the Boys' Grammar School to take the course leading to the Higher School Certificate.

### *Higher Education*

The colony contributes to the cost of the University College of the West Indies. In 1958 a number of Government scholarships were provided to permit teachers at secondary schools to attend the University College. In September, 1958, two teachers were selected to do a full university course leading to the degree of B.A. (London) and one to do a special one-year course in English. As a result of public subscriptions to the Princess Alice Appeal Fund, there was an award of a scholarship to permit one suitably qualified person to pursue a full university course leading to the degree of B.Sc. (London).

### *Teachers' Training Institutions*

The colony contributes annually to the Spring Gardens Training College in Antigua where its female primary school teachers receive training. In addition, there is a programme based on a Colonial Development and Welfare scheme which provides for the training of a number of teachers at the Erdiston Teachers Training College in Barbados. In 1957, 10 teachers were sent to Spring Gardens and three (two male and one female) were sent to Erdiston. In 1958, 10 teachers were sent to Spring Gardens and two to Erdiston. In

1957 a female teacher completed a course of training in home economics in Puerto Rico under an International Co-operation Administration scheme and in 1958 a male teacher completed a course in wood-work under the same scheme. In 1957 a male teacher received advanced training in wood-work in Barbados under the Colonial Development and Welfare West Indies Training Scheme.

#### *Adult Education*

The headquarters of the University College Department for Extra-Mural Studies in the Leewards is now in St. Kitts. This Department continues to play its part in adult education by sponsoring lectures, discussion groups and special courses.

#### *School Buildings and Equipment*

Nine of the Government primary schools were housed in buildings which are the property of Government. The remaining schools are rented from various religious denominations. Most of the school-buildings are seriously overcrowded and many of them are altogether unsuitable. One primary school was built in the period 1957-58; the new Boys' Grammar School in Basseterre was completed during the period under review and was occupied in May, 1958.

#### *Extra-Curricular Activities*

Clubs continue to function in primary and secondary schools. The activities of these are varied and include thrift societies, literary and debating clubs, nature study walks, etc. The pupils themselves play a great part in the management of these clubs and so receive training in leadership.

The wood-work centre in Basseterre continued to cater for classes from the primary schools in Basseterre; wood-work centres have been established in two primary schools outside the Basseterre area. Four qualified instructresses give training in domestic science and two in handicrafts to senior pupils of the primary schools.

The Central Office of Information on behalf of the Colonial Office continued to supply films, film strips and British newsreels.

#### *Education Statistics*

	Number of Schools, 1958					
	Public Schools			Independent Schools (Assisted and Non-Assisted)		
	Boys	Girls	Mixed	Boys	Girls	Mixed
Primary	3	3	27	—	—	9
Secondary	1	1	2	—	—	1

	Number of Teachers, 1958			
	Public Schools		Independent Schools (Assisted and Non-Assisted)	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Primary Schools .	110	221	21	16
Secondary Schools .	22	19	—	6

	Number of Pupils, 1958			
	Boys		Girls	
	Roll	Average Attendance	Roll	Average Attendance
<i>Public Schools</i>				
Primary Schools .	7,763	6,590	7,179	6,033
Secondary Schools .	366	335	569	550
<i>Independent Schools</i>				
Primary Schools .	408	328	449	375
Secondary Schools .	88	85	114	113

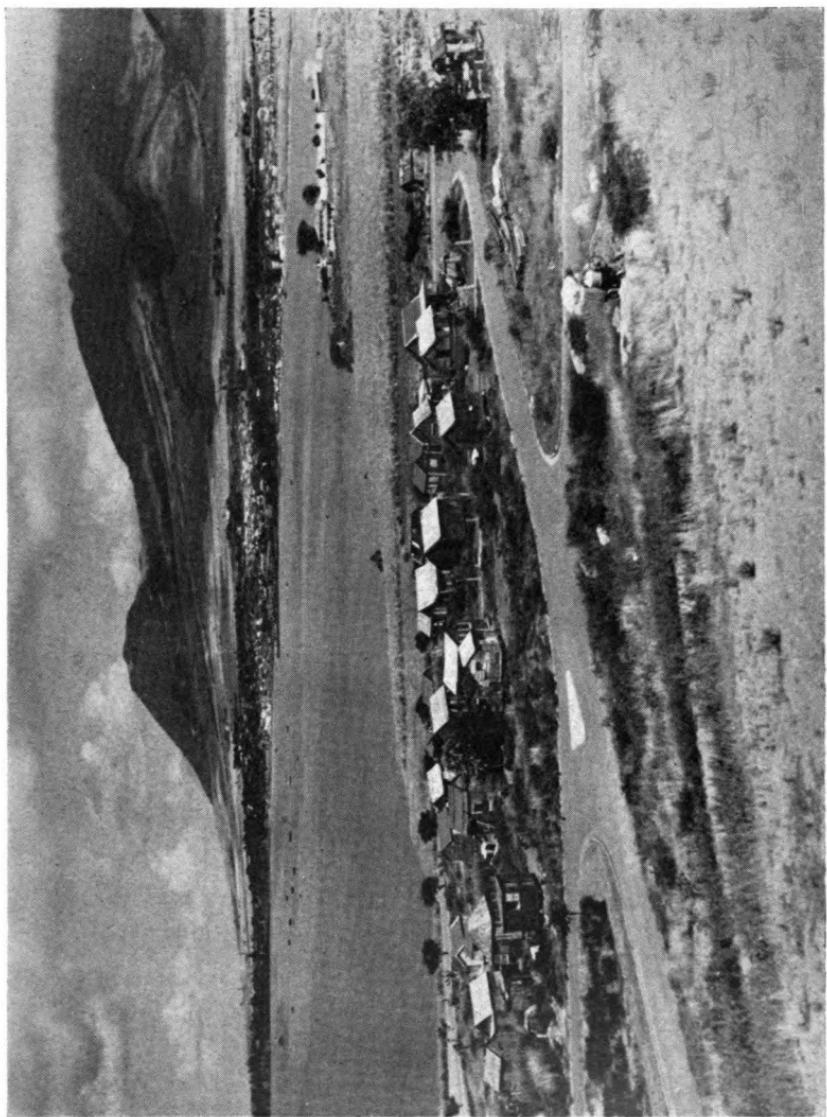
### PUBLIC HEALTH

#### Vital Statistics

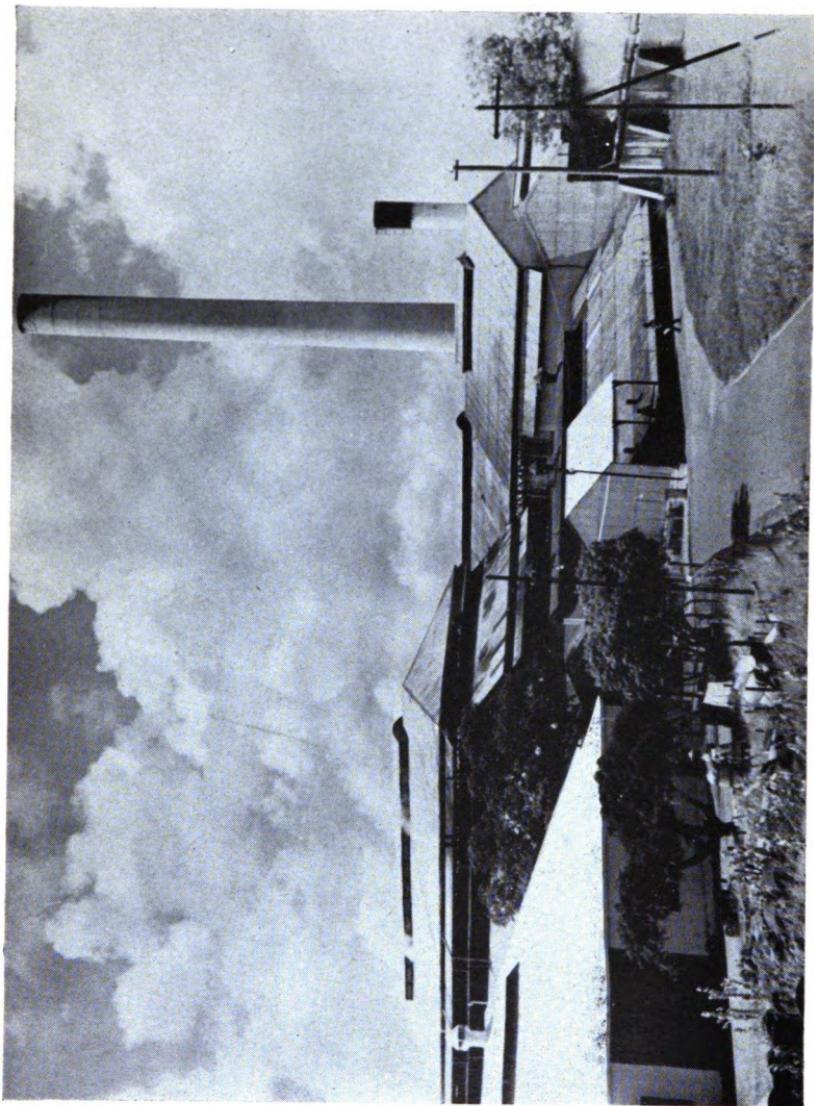
No census has been carried out since 1946 and population figures are arrived at by rough calculation. Births and the birth rate fell in 1958 as compared with 1957. Deaths and the crude death rate showed a rise in 1958, owing mainly to the whooping cough epidemic. The infant mortality rate showed a distinct rise in 1958, which was accounted for by the increase in diseases of early infancy, gastro-enteritis and colitis and whooping cough.

Vital statistics for 1957 and 1958 are shown below:

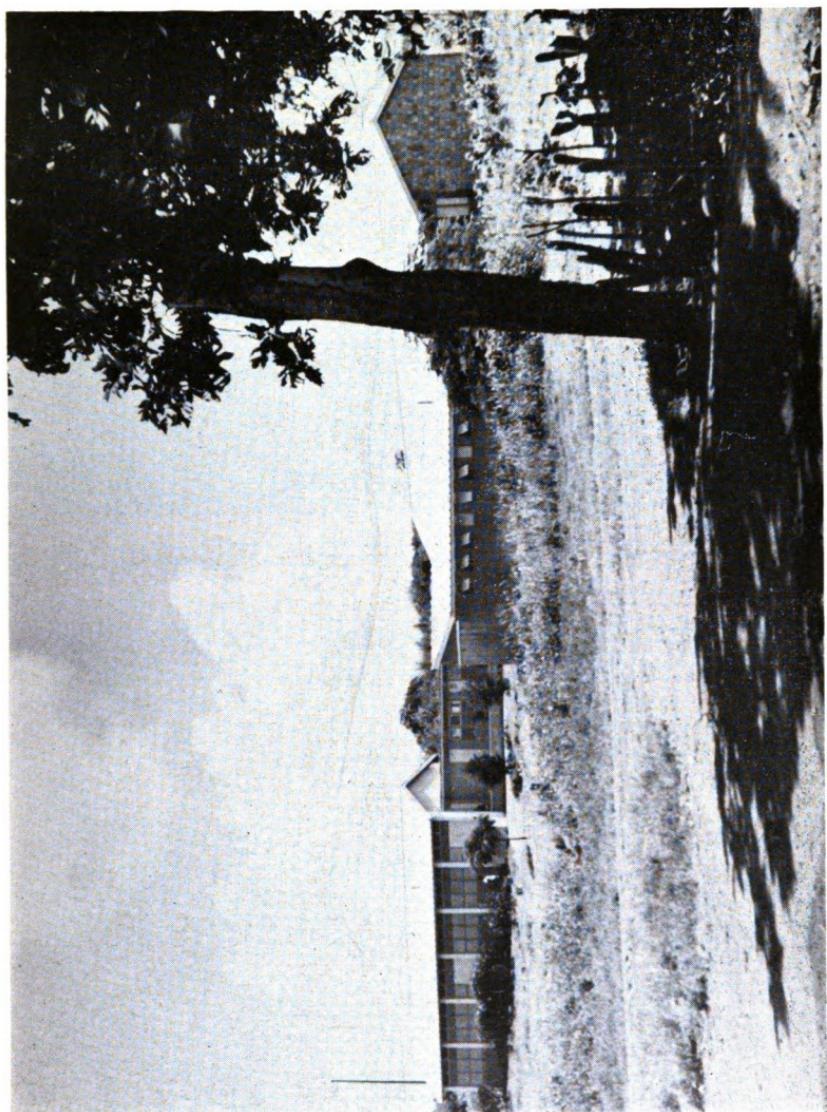
	31st Dec. 1957	31st Dec. 1958
Population . . . . .	57,531	58,579
Births . . . . .	2,697	2,520
Birth rate per 1,000 . . . . .	47.7	43.4
Still births . . . . .	87	80
Deaths . . . . .	749	822
Crude death rate per 1,000 . . . . .	13.2	14.2
Deaths under 1 year . . . . .	194	285
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births .	71.9	113.1



*New housing area under development at Bird Rock*



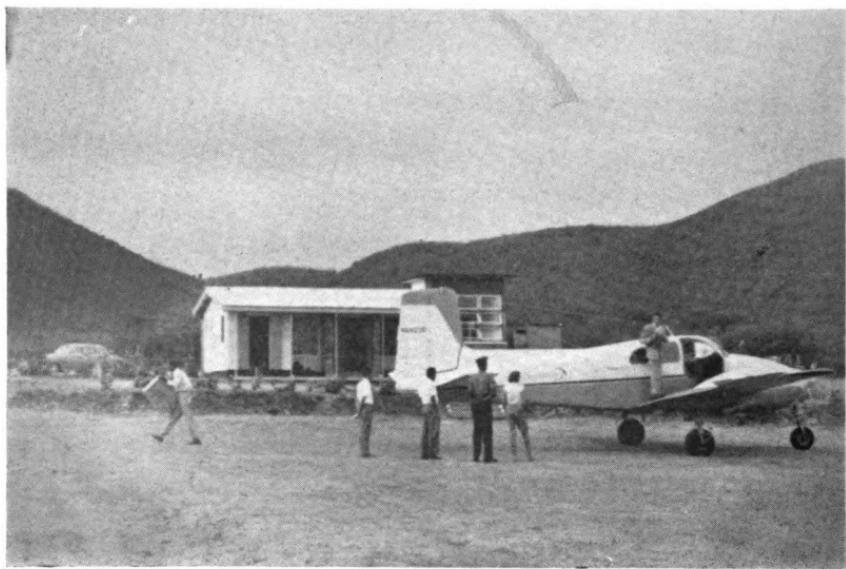
*St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory*



*New primary school at Newton Ground*



*Motor vessels and sailing lighters loading passengers and cargo for Nevis*



*The airstrip, Newcastle*

*Principal causes of death*

The following table shows the most common causes of death:

Cause	1957		1958	
	Number of Deaths	Death rate per 1,000	Number of Deaths	Death rate per 1,000
Heart disease . . .	76	1.35	79	1.36
Diseases of early infancy . . .	87	1.54	104	1.79
Apoplexy . . .	85	1.15	68	1.17
Gastro-enteritis and colitis . . .	88	1.56	130	2.24
Respiratory diseases . . .	86	1.52	98	1.68
Senility . . .	72	1.28	56	0.96
Cancer . . .	41	0.73	41	0.71
Accidents and violence . . .	31	0.55	15	0.25
Tuberculosis . . .	6	0.10	11	0.19
Deficiency diseases . . .	25	0.44	43	0.74
Nephritis . . .	—	—	13	0.22
Maternal deaths . . .	10	3.70*	4	1.59*
Dysentery . . .	4	0.07	1	0.02
Syphilis . . .	15	0.27	4	0.07
Alcoholism . . .	4	0.07	6	0.10
Whooping cough . . .	—	—	128	2.20

\*Per 1,000 live births.

*Communicable Diseases*

In 1958 one case of small pox was notified in the island of Anguilla, but not confirmed. Steps were taken immediately, however, to enforce the quarantine measures, including mass vaccination, in the colony. No epidemic occurred. Routine vaccination was carried out during the two years on all children between three months and one year.

There were 22 cases of tuberculosis notified in 1957, with six deaths, and in 1958, 27 cases were notified with 11 deaths. It is doubtful whether the notifications present a true picture, however, owing to the shortage of doctors. No follow-up of the B.C.G. campaign started in 1954 was possible during the two years, because of staff shortage and inadequate X-ray facilities. There persisted a lack of hospital accommodation for tuberculosis cases, and open cases had to be sent home for treatment except where family conditions and overcrowding were worst. The chest clinic in Basseterre had practically ceased to function for the two years under review as no Medical Officer of Health was available. Routine visiting and examination of contacts were carried out.

In 1957 three cases of the typhoid fever group were reported, with no deaths, as compared to 1958, with 20 notifications and again no deaths.

Cases of syphilis reported in 1957 amounted to 172, with 15 deaths; 75 cases were reported in 1958, with four deaths. There were 229 cases of gonorrhoea in 1957, with no deaths, and in 1958, 284 cases, with no deaths. Shortage of contact-tracing staff interfered with ideal conditions for keeping the disease in check. Three other venereal diseases, chancroid, lymphogranuloma venereum and granuloma inguinale venereal accounted for 32 cases in 1957, with one death, and 43 in 1958 with no deaths.

In 1957 there were only three cases of whooping cough and no deaths, but in 1958 an epidemic occurred with 5,325 cases and 128 deaths.

Influenza took a toll in 1957: 2,422 cases were notified with 23 deaths, and in 1958 there were 551 cases with six deaths.

Schistosomiasis, whilst not regarded here as a major health hazard, is considered endemic in three small rural areas and the infested streams, unfortunately, augment the domestic water supply. No clinical cases were reported in the two years under review. During 1958 the Public Health Department, assisted and advised by the U.S. Public Health Service based in Puerto Rico, initiated measures to destroy the colonies of the reservoir snail *Australorbis glabratus*. Part of the programme consisted of (a) stool sample collection; (b) application of a molluscicide—sodium pentachlorophenate; (c) examination of captured monkeys being infected.

1957 saw the completion of the W.H.O./UNICEF-assisted Yaws and Venereal Diseases Programme. A follow-up in 1958 proved impossible because of staffing difficulties. The campaign to eradicate the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito from the colony which started in 1955 continued throughout 1957 and 1958. The island of Nevis was reported clear in 1957 and remained so in 1958. In St. Kitts the work in 1957 continued during 1958 and now *Aedes* infestation is reduced to two localities where it has proved most difficult to find the breeding places. In Anguilla infestation has increased because the increasing use of cisterns for storage of rain water has multiplied the breeding areas. The cisterns have proved difficult to protect. The lack of funds to continue the work proved a handicap to the scheme.

During the two years, the Latrine Sanitation Programme—a W.H.O./UNICEF-assisted project—continued. In 1958 unfortunately the work had to be discontinued owing to lack of funds.

In Anguilla the soil is hard and rocky and prevents the use of the more convenient bore-hole latrine. The septic tank privy was therefore introduced there in 1957. Seventy-four of these were installed, serving approximately 400 people. In 1958 only 49 units

were installed—again owing to lack of funds. This new venture was introduced in different localities to show what could be done in a district where there are no actual townships or even villages. First impressions show that these improved sanitary units are proving popular.

Town and Rural Cleansing Services were on the whole satisfactory, and gave an excellent service. In 1958 however in Basseterre, St. Kitts, there was a temporary cessation of the scavenging services owing to lack of funds. During 1957 and 1958 work in St. Kitts was accelerated in order to create an additional water supply for Basseterre. The supply was inadequate, only roughly filtered and unchlorinated, but on the whole satisfactory, in that faecal *b. coli* were absent. In Nevis an additional water supply from springs pumped to a storage tank at 350 feet, and thence by gravity to a surrounding community, was installed. In Anguilla a tank was built to take about 20,000 gallons for storage but, in spite of this, supplies in Anguilla remained inadequate. This scarcity of water, linked with attempts to store such rain water as falls, affected the *Aedes aegypti* index.

### Hospitals

There are two main general hospitals—Cunningham (117 beds) in St. Kitts, and Alexandra (40 beds) in Nevis. The installation of propane gas cookers at the Cunningham Hospital at the end of the year 1958 was a great improvement.

Satisfactory conditions in tuberculosis wards have not yet been achieved. The Cottage Hospital in Anguilla with nine beds needs improvement, but serves a very useful purpose. A small auxiliary, cottage hospital with 11 beds serves the outlying district on the western side of St. Kitts.

At the Cunningham Hospital for the greater part of 1957 a Medical Superintendent with surgical qualifications was in charge and performed the general surgery. In 1958 the hospital was run by a Government District Medical Officer assisted by a part-time retired officer. Several changes took place and in November, 1958 a new Superintendent was appointed. The surgery remained in the hands of a Government District Medical Officer during 1958. Only emergency surgery was done. The Cardin Home for the aged and infirm was cared for by various officers during the two years and at the end of the year was visited by the part-time Medical Officer. In this institution there is temporary accommodation for the mentally sick who are transferred as quickly as possible to the Mental Hospital at Antigua. There is no separate institution in the colony for mental cases.

Cunningham Hospital is the main centre for teaching and training nurses and dispensers. Alexandra Hospital plays a smaller but vital part in training nurses. The main laboratory is in Cunningham Hospital and continues to train technicians.

The smaller hospitals, each with its own small accommodation for the aged and infirm, and the leprosarium are in charge of District Medical Officers. At the end of the year there were 21 patients in the leprosarium—15 males and six females. In 1957 there were 20 cases. The home is an old fort and the inmates were comparatively happy in the fairly pleasant surroundings. Some did gardening; others less able to work, and some who were blind, simply passed their day in peace and quiet in the warm climate of this colony.

Only about one-fifth of all confinements could be cared for in hospitals. Midwives were thus handicapped in training.

#### *District Services*

The District Medical Officers provide free medical attention to several groups of people designated by Government. Private practices also exist. St. Kitts had a full complement of Medical Officers in the district, but Nevis and Anguilla were ill served during 1958 owing to shortage of staff. The 22 health centres in the colony carried out preventive medicine and medical care. The rural health centres were used regularly for certain days in the week. A public health nurse and midwife were in attendance with visits from the District Medical Officer of that area.

The dental programme for children, expectant mothers and labourers was carried out by two part-time dentists. Small propaganda notices on the preservation of teeth, written to make an appeal to children, appeared regularly in the local press.

The colony is divided into 13 sanitary districts, each with its own inspector, working under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

#### *Medical Department*

Many changes occurred in the technical staff during the two years. In 1958 there occurred a near strike amongst the doctors—said to be due to poor salary conditions and an evasion by Government of claims made by them. This was happily settled and the community in no way suffered.

During 1958 there was a gradual loss in Medical Officers owing to resignations, sickness and study leave. Nevis was one Medical Officer short for six months, and Anguilla had no doctor for three months, except for occasional visits by one of the Medical Officers from St. Kitts.

In St. Kitts difficulty arose chiefly in the Cunningham Hospital where there was no regular surgeon for the greater part of 1958. In an effort to maintain the service at the hospital, the Medical Officer of Health was required to perform duty there, with the result that the Health Clinics were neglected, and the health programme for the colony had to be heavily curtailed.

At the end of the year, including recruits, there were nine Government doctors on the staff, of whom two were on contract, and one resigned on 31st December, 1958. Two private doctors were in practice for part of 1958. Staffing problems amongst the nursing staff were fairly easy during the two years, but there was a serious shortage of midwives.

Lack of training facilities presented a major obstacle to the successful running of the medical and public health services. No Sister Tutor was available during the two years for the training of nurses, and the work was done by the Matrons of the respective hospitals, assisted by doctors when they could spare the time.

*Public Health Inspectors.* In this branch of the service there was less difficulty. A good routine has been adopted and the practical work was well catered for by the two Senior Inspectors, who supplemented this with lectures. The Chief Public Health Inspector was in charge.

#### Expenditure on Health

		1957 Actual	1958 Estimated
		\$	\$
Cunningham Hospital	.	233,902	246,051
Alexandra Hospital	.	83,144	85,640
Pogson Hospital	.	15,269	17,218
Cottage Hospital	.	18,400	23,003
Leprosarium	.	15,443	16,447
Mental Patients	.	27,351	22,907
Infirmarys	.	31,617	32,652
<hr/>			
Public Health, Head 33	.	425,126	443,918
	.	356,783	356,470
<hr/>			
Expenditure by Public Works Department on Health Projects	.	37,397	27,000
Assistance from U.K. Government	.	2,148	5,530
Assistance from international organisations	.	123,947	145,000

#### HOUSING

During the period under review the staff of the Central Housing and Planning Authority comprised nine establishment and seven non-establishment officers, which included four technical officers and one student surveyor.

Early in 1957, the death of the land surveyor interrupted the progress in so far as field work was concerned, but it was possible for the builder surveyor to undertake temporarily the duties of the land surveyor in conjunction with his own duties. The efforts to secure a suitable land surveyor were disappointing, and it was not possible until July, 1958, to obtain the services of an experienced officer.

At the present time two technical officers are receiving training in Puerto Rico under the International Co-operation Administration programme, and it is envisaged that full advantage will be taken of the training offered there to provide a reservoir of trained personnel.

### *Development*

The Central Housing and Planning Authority is continuing to improve housing conditions generally, but with greater emphasis on rural development. The effort to secure better homes and better surroundings for workers engaged in the sugar industry stems primarily from the desire to abolish the unhygienic and inferior thrash houses and the deplorable conditions associated with this type of housing in the tropics, coupled with the fact that the only land available to sugar workers for building was on the almost inaccessible slopes of the central mountain range.

The site developments which have been undertaken by the Central Authority from time to time, in particular the introduction and participation of sugar workers in the activities of the Aided Self-Help programme, have made possible the fulfilment of the social requirements and other needs of the new communities, without which the struggle to improve living standards would be severely handicapped.

*Cayon Scheme.* This scheme is situated approximately six miles north of Basseterre in the parish of St. Mary, Cayon; the total area of 11 acres contains 117 building lots. The scheme is estimated to cost \$111,300. The lots are approximately 2,625 square feet with a minimum street frontage of 35 feet.

The scheme, which was started in 1957, necessitated the laying of approximately 1,000 square yards of concrete pavements, 5,200 square yards of oiled roads, 1,800 square yards of concrete drains, the removal by heavy equipment of approximately 50,000 cubic yards of earth, the provision of open spaces and landscape work, and also the extension of the existing water supply. In addition, the re-siting of 84 families was achieved in 1958, and the construction of 33 aided self-help houses was begun.

In every unit bore-hole latrines are supplied as it is impossible at the present time, owing to the inadequate supply of water, to introduce a water-borne sewage system on any of the projects undertaken by the Central Authority.

*Bird Rock Housing Scheme.* The Bird Rock Housing Scheme is situated approximately two miles south-east of Basseterre. The area was formerly used for rough grazing and peasant cultivation. It is proposed to develop this area by the provision of roads and electricity supplies and other amenities to form an extension to the town of Basseterre. It is also proposed to provide building lots for sale to approved applicants, giving preference to those persons who have their own homes in the town of Basseterre but who do not own land, and to those who live in overcrowded and slum areas and who wish to remove their houses or build new ones. Provision is also made in this scheme for combined house and shop lots, two churches, a health outpost and an infant school, one hotel restaurant, a public park and other open spaces, lorry and bus parks, and a road to the beach at Warrior Bay.

It is estimated that this scheme would cost approximately \$358,000. During 1957-58 road work, including the laying down of curbs and drains, preparation of open spaces and the planting of trees was well advanced on the southern section. This was mainly due to the use of caterpillar equipment and the use of high explosive for clearing the area.

The northern section has now been cleared. The entire scheme is expected to provide accommodation for approximately 440 families.

*Prefabricated Sectional Houses.* In the carpenter's shop on the office site, 16 carpenters and two apprentices (including one foreman) have been continuously engaged, chiefly in the construction of prefabricated sectional houses, and the prefabrication of other units for use in the Aided Self-Help programme. The prefabricated sectional houses are mostly used to replace thrash houses, and to date 200 of these units have been erected throughout the island.

A second but much smaller force of workers is employed in the preparation of pre-cast concrete units, i.e. latrine units, base slabs, curbs and pavement slabs.

*New Town Slum Clearance Scheme.* The subdivision of land is still to be carried out in the New Town Slum Clearance Scheme. This scheme has been handicapped by the fact that many of the private land owners do not possess proper titles to their lands, and so negotiations by the Central Housing Authority for the purchase of land have had to be postponed. However, every effort is being made to rectify this position and gradually it is expected to have this work successfully concluded.

*Greenlands.* The layout in this scheme is complete, including landscaping along Cayon Street. Construction of buildings continued during the period under review, and up to the end of 1958 approximately 49 houses were completed. These houses are owned by persons within the middle income group, and a large number of them were built by private contractors.

The progress in these schemes, including the establishment of private housing estates, has relieved to a great extent the acute housing shortage in Basseterre, and indications are that similar development work will be undertaken by land owners within the Urban Area.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

Considerable progress was made in welfare work during the period under review. In Anguilla and Nevis two Welfare Supervisors were appointed, and became responsible for social welfare activities in these two islands. In St. Kitts a senior officer was appointed to the new post of Assistant Community Development Officer as a multi-purpose worker responsible for probation, youth work, and relieving.

In the absence of the Community Development Officer on overseas leave, and subsequently, on secondment to another department, the Assistant Community Development Officer assumed responsibility as Head of the Department.

The Home Demonstration Officer attended a short refresher course on social welfare at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, which was sponsored by the Government of Trinidad.

There has been an increase in the number of voluntary organisations established for welfare work, and the Department worked hand in hand with these bodies, giving guidance and financial and other assistance where necessary.

Extensive investigational work has been carried out throughout the territory. As the Department became better known and its functions more clearly understood, more persons tended to come with their several problems, and the case load gradually increased.

An important part of the case work undertaken dealt with the problems of migrants in the United Kingdom. In this connection, close contact was maintained with the then British Caribbean Welfare Service (now Migrants Service Division) in order to deal satisfactorily with the circumstances of the dependants and other relatives of migrants. This work also included migrants to Curacao and Aruba, contract workers to the United States, and destitute repatriates from the Dominican Republic and Cuba, for whom transport, lodging, and in many cases indoor relief, were arranged.

The British Council, the United Kingdom Information Office in Trinidad, the United States Information Service and the Caribbean Commission, have all provided reading matter and films. The literature has been distributed to youth clubs and other organisations. Film showing has been effectively organised, chiefly in the rural areas.

The Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies assisted in the work of community development, as the Resident Tutor organised lectures, seminars, and other group discussions throughout St. Kitts and Nevis.

The Home Demonstration Officer operated classes in home economics in four rural villages in St. Kitts. The programme included the teaching of cooking and general home management to adolescent girls. Despite the fact that constant migration affected the numerical strength of these classes, interest amongst the groups was maintained. House to house visiting again revealed the social and economic ills that resulted from overcrowding and broken family life.

A Homes, Families and Gardens Festival organised in St. Kitts in 1957 and again in 1958, awakened considerable interest in the rural villages, fifteen of which took part in the competitions arranged for the winning of an island shield for the Champion Village. This included a week of village activities, when each Village Committee arranged special programmes for the education and entertainment of the villagers. One hundred and fifty prizes and a similar number of Certificates of Merit were awarded to householders for cultivating the best village homes and gardens. The Festival aimed at discouraging tendencies to child neglect and unstable family life in the home. Its purpose was to stimulate a sense of pride in home, family and village so that living standards might improve.

Commonwealth Youth Sunday was observed in all three islands. This event, organised by the Department, is increasing noticeably in its scope, and the huge youth rallies arranged at various centres on the afternoon of this observance day are succeeding in bringing together the young people. The Boys Brigade Movement and the Girl Guide Movement have continued to grow from strength to strength. In Anguilla, Scouting steadily progressed and, by admirable self-help methods, the members of this movement made great headway with their two-storey headquarters building at the Valley. One Scout became a Queen's Scout during 1957.

Apart from the well-known organisations, youth clubs and other activities of young people have shown signs of increasing life as the Department continued with its efforts at guidance and inspiration.

*Expenditure*

Funds provided for social welfare purposes included the following:

	1957	1958
	\$	\$
Social Welfare Expenses . . .	30,000	30,000
Blind Welfare . . .	3,540	3,540
Maintenance of Children's Home . . .	—	3,120
Maintenance of Vehicle . . .	1,638	2,088
Total . . .	<u>35,178</u>	<u>38,748</u>

*Relief and Pensions*

Public assistance again proved a major part of the Department's work and Relieving Officers were kept constantly busy doing investigational work for this purpose. Funds are administered by the Department and distributed to outdoor recipients fortnightly. The poor list, with rates payable, is made with the help of statutory boards in each island, and is referred to the Executive Council for approval.

The amounts provided for outdoor relief were as follows:

	1957	1958
	\$	\$
St. Kitts . . . . .	23,500	23,500
Nevis . . . . .	5,000	5,000
Anguilla . . . . .	2,000	2,000
Total . . . . .	<u>30,500</u>	<u>30,500</u>

Average rates per fortnight rose slightly to 75 cents for children, \$1.00 for adults, and \$1.50 for blind persons. Ex-lepers received rates of \$2.88 and \$5.00 per fortnight respectively in 1957 and 1958. The average number of persons on relief in 1957 and 1958 was:

St. Kitts . . . . .	1,200
Nevis . . . . .	200
Anguilla . . . . .	90
Total . . . . .	<u>1,490</u>

The Old Age Pension Scheme for destitute persons, aged 65 and over, continued in operation. The amount allotted in 1957 and also in 1958 was:

St. Kitts . . . . .	\$
Nevis . . . . .	16,380
Anguilla . . . . .	4,680
Total . . . . .	3,900
	<u>24,960</u>

These sums provided pensions of \$2.00 per fortnight to the following number of persons:

St. Kitts	.	.	315
Nevis	.	.	90
Anguilla	.	.	75
Total	.	.	490

### Probation Work

Probation work done by the Salvation Army came to an end after the return to the Department of a Welfare Officer who had been training in Jamaica. This officer took over the problems of juvenile delinquency in St. Kitts, and attended the Juvenile Courts held there.

The following figures give some indication of the juvenile delinquency situation and work done by Probation Officers:

Year	Cases Reported			Number Convicted		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1957	108	32	140	61	8	69
1958	120	31	151	69	9	78

Cases	1957			1958		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Investigated	78	27	105	84	32	116
Settled by Probation Officer	47	14	61	53	21	74
On Probation	16	5	21	18	7	25

The incidence of juvenile delinquency has risen, and consideration has been given to the establishment of a home for boys as a further step to probation treatment.

## Chapter 8: Legislation

TWENTY-FIVE Ordinances were passed in 1957 and thirty-four in 1958. Of those passed in 1957 the most important were:

- (i) *The Trustee Investment in St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla Government Securities Ordinance, 1957, No. 2 of 1957.* This Ordinance makes provision to safeguard the rights of holders of Colonial stock where it appears that any legislation alters the rights of such stock holders.

- (ii) *The Development Loan Ordinance, 1957, No. 3 of 1957, and the General Development Local Loan Ordinance, 1957, No. 9 of 1957.* These make provision respectively for the raising of loans in the United Kingdom and in the colony.
- (iii) *The Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provision) Ordinance, 1957, No. 14 of 1957.* This provides for the apportionment of liability in case of contributory negligence and for abolition of the doctrine of common employment.
- (iv) *The Pensions (Increase) Ordinance, 1957, No. 21 of 1957.* This provides for various increases of pensions payable on retirement from the public service.
- (v) *The Matrimonial Causes Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1957, No. 22 of 1957.* This provides for abolition of the rule of Russell and Russell.
- (vi) *The Lotteries Ordinance, 1957, No. 23 of 1957.* This provides the framework under which the Government may promote and conduct lotteries.
- (vii) *The Vegetable and Livestock Production Ordinance, 1957, No. 1 of 1958.* This makes provision for the compulsory cultivation of vegetables.

Of those passed in 1958 the most important were:

- (i) *The Land and House Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1958, No. 4 of 1958, The Trade and Revenue (Amendment) Ordinance, 1958, No. 5 of 1958, The Pier Dues (Amendment) Ordinance, 1958, No. 6 of 1958, The Parcels Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1958, No. 8 of 1958, The Travelling Agents and Pedlars Licences (Amendment) Ordinance, 1958, No. 17 of 1958, The Dog (Amendment) Ordinance, 1958, No. 20 of 1958 and The Weights and Measures Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1958, No. 21 of 1958.* All make provision for raising additional revenue by increased taxation.
- (ii) *The Treasury Re-organisation Ordinance, 1958, No. 12 of 1958.* This provides for re-organisation of the Treasury and the establishment of a separate Department of Customs and Excise. The Accountant General now replaces the Treasurer in this re-organisation and there is provision for the new post of Comptroller of Customs.
- (iii) *The Sugar Export Cess (Amendment) Ordinance, 1958, No. 23 of 1958.* This makes provision for a re-allocation of sugar export cess.

- (iv) *The Exchange Control Ordinance, 1958, No. 27 of 1958.* This makes provision for the control of exchange along lines of a model Ordinance which is now the law in most parts of the Commonwealth. It replaces provisions which formerly rested upon wartime emergency legislation.
- (v) *The Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Ordinance, 1958, No. 30 of 1958.* This enacts legislation to prevent dumping and similar practice likely to be harmful to the trade and economy structure of the colony.
- (vi) *The Land Acquisition Ordinance, 1958, No. 31 of 1958.* This is a new Ordinance providing for land acquisition along the same lines of the Land Acquisition Act which it repeals and replaces.
- (vii) *The External Trade Ordinance, 1958, No. 32 of 1958.* This makes provision for the control of external trade by means of a system of licences. It replaces provisions based upon wartime emergency legislation.
- (viii) *The Distribution and Price of Goods Ordinance, 1958, No. 33 of 1958.* This Ordinance provides for the continuance of a power to control prices and replaces similar provisions of wartime emergency legislation.

## *Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons*

### **JUSTICE**

THE Acts of the Leeward Islands and the Ordinances of St. Christopher Nevis and Anguilla constitute a fairly considerable body of statute law in force in the colony. In addition, there are some Imperial Statutes, such as the British Nationality Act, 1948, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 to 1952, which are applicable to the colonies. Subject to these, the Common Law of England is applicable to the colony.

The Courts of Law in the colony are:

- (a) The Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands;
- (b) The Summary Jurisdiction Court; and
- (c) The Magistrate's Court.

From the 1st January, 1940, the Supreme Court of the Leeward Islands ceased to exist and, by virtue of an Order in Council of His Majesty, entitled the Leeward Islands and Windward Islands (Courts) Order in Council, 1939, one Superior Court of Record, styled the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward

Islands, was created for the colonies of Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica and the Leeward Islands. This Court is presided over by a Chief Justice or Puisne Judges, of whom there are three in number.

Circuit Courts, with a jury of nine for the trial of criminal cases, are held in St. Kitts, in the months of February, July and November; and in Nevis, in the months of April and November. The Attorney General or the Crown Attorney exercises the functions of the Grand Jury.

The Court of Summary Jurisdiction sits without a jury in the colony for the trial of civil cases where a sum of not more than \$240 is involved and in certain cases by consent when the amount in dispute does not exceed \$480. The sittings of the Court are fixed for the first day of the month in which the Circuit Court sessions are to be held, but in practice they are held after the criminal list and appeals have been disposed of in the Circuit Courts.

Cases of every type can be tried by the Supreme Court. On the criminal side of the Supreme Court, offences under the Larceny Act, which include burglary, housebreaking and all the more serious thefts, preponderate. Actions for trespass are the most numerous in the Summary Jurisdiction Court.

Appeals from both the Supreme Court and the Court of Summary Jurisdiction lie to the Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands (which was also created by the Imperial Order in Council of 1939) against convictions on indictment and in certain civil matters, and to the West Indian Court of Appeal from a final judgment in civil proceedings of the Supreme Court sitting as a Court of first instance and by leave from any interlocutory order made in the course of any proceedings.

Summary criminal offences and civil claims up to a limit of \$96 in contract and \$48 in tort are dealt with by the District Magistrates. Their jurisdiction is prescribed by the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act (Cap. 61).

Appeals from decisions of Magistrates go to a Judge of the Supreme Court, and a further right of appeal against the decision of a Judge may be made to the Court of Appeal for the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands.

A Juvenile Court was established in 1950. The District Magistrates and two assessors, one of whom is a woman, constitute this Court. Its procedure is prescribed by the Juvenile Courts Procedure Rules, 1949. The Juvenile Act, 1949, constitutes the code which regulates the legal protection and treatment of juveniles.

**POLICE**

The police force of the colony of St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla forms a division of the Leeward Islands police force which is controlled by the Commissioner of Police whose headquarters are in Antigua. The division is under immediate command of a Superintendent of Police.

The authorised establishment of the force is 135 and is composed of 116 regular police officers, including three women police constables, and 19 fire brigade officers. Its strength on 31st December, 1958 was 125. The first women police constables to serve in the force were enlisted on 18th January, 1958.

Throughout the period under review 51 police auxiliaries called local constables served in the colony. They were of great assistance to the police in all aspects of their work.

Other duties undertaken by the police in addition to their normal duties include the examination and licensing of vehicles, control of immigration, the inspection of weights and measures, the issuing of dog licences in rural areas, and the operation of a radio-telephone service between St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla.

***Training***

One Gazetted Officer and two sergeants attended police courses in the United Kingdom during 1957-1958. The Gazetted Officer was trained at the Scottish Police College in Scotland; one of the sergeants at the Metropolitan Police Detective Training School, Hendon, and also at the Photographic and Fingerprint Branches of the West Riding Constabulary; and the other at the Metropolitan Police Training School, Hendon.

One sergeant, one corporal and 23 recruits (20 men and three women) were enlisted in the colony; 17 underwent courses of training at the Regional Police Training Centre, Barbados and the other six were trained locally.

In 1957 all ranks attended first aid courses but, owing to a grave shortage of doctors and lay-lecturers to instruct, no classes were held in 1958.

***Fingerprints and Photography***

There were 979 sets of fingerprints on file on 31st December, 1958.

The photographic section of the C.I.D. was busy throughout 1957 and 1958. A large number of photographs were taken of persons in custody for identification purposes.

### *Crime*

In 1957 an increase of 159 cases was reported over the figures for 1956. In 1958 however, a general decrease in all crimes and offences except wounding, was recorded. The decrease was partly due to the effectiveness of an island-wide patrol scheme.

### *Juvenile Delinquency*

The steady increase in this type of offence during 1957-1958 has presented a very real problem to all law enforcement, probation and welfare officers. The provision of a reformatory school for boys would do much to reduce the number of offenders.

### *Smuggling*

Import duty on spirits was increased in 1956 and since then there has been a steady rise in the number of cases of smuggling. Thirty-six persons were convicted in 1958 for this offence as compared with 27 in 1957 and six in 1956.

### *Illicit Distillation*

Two hundred and two illicit stills were destroyed in 1958 as compared with 138 in 1957. Fines totalling \$7,892 were imposed on 132 persons prosecuted in 1958 for illicitly distilling rum, as against fines of \$2,062.40 imposed on 53 persons prosecuted for similar offences in 1957.

### *Vehicles and Traffic*

In 1958, 1,451 vehicles were licensed and 241 were registered, as compared with 1,071 licensed and 184 registered in 1957. The total number of vehicles registered on 31st December, 1958 was 1,470.

One hundred and sixty-seven road accidents were recorded in 1958 as against 126 in 1957. The road casualties in 1958 were 102 as compared with 95 in 1957. There was one fatal accident in 1958 and none in 1957.

### *Migration*

In 1958, 7,250 passengers arrived in the colony and 7,183 in 1957. The departures were 8,006 in 1958 and 7,781 in 1957.

Fourteen persons were refused permission to land in 1958 because of lack of funds for their maintenance. Twenty-seven natives of the colony were repatriated during 1957-1958: one from the United States, 15 from the Dominican Republic, and 11 from Cuba.

## *Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works*

### **ROADS**

LATE in 1957 a three-mile stretch of the main road around St. Kitts was rebuilt and surfaced with colas. This work completed the road reconstruction programme for the island begun years before. There is now a good all-weather road around the island of about 32 miles in length and varying in width from 18 feet to 20 feet. General maintenance and improvements of drains during the period under review kept this road up to good motorable standard.

Road reconstruction in Nevis was concentrated on the seven-mile stretch between Newcastle and Charlestown. Three miles of road has been reconstructed partly in concrete and partly in colassed macadam. However, the Nevis road reconstruction and general maintenance suffer from lack of proper equipment and funds to build or maintain roads with difficult foundation problems and hilly terrain.

One bridge was built over the Maddens Ghaut, an area which suffers from flooding.

Low traffic density and a good natural foundation simplify the building and maintenance of roads in Anguilla. During the period under review work on road reconstruction dealt chiefly with the road leading from the Valley to the pier at Forest and a short section through Valley leading to the Cottage Hospital.

### **TELEPHONES**

Up to the end of 1958 the outmoded and inadequate telephone system in St. Kitts was still being used. By dint of constant efforts in maintenance the system was made to serve more than twice the number of subscribers for which it was originally designed. During this period plans were being carried forward to provide a satisfactory system.

Construction of the new telephone system for Nevis got under way in February, 1958, under the technical supervision of Mr. R. T. Stevens, O.B.E., Telephone Engineer of Antigua. The system utilizes a magneto switchboard and P.V.C. insulated twin wire cable on wallaba poles. The switchboard has been installed in the reconditioned exchange building and 60 per cent. of the cable has been connected.

There are immediate plans for a V.H.F. link with St. Kitts and the necessary equipment is awaited.

### BUILDINGS

The buildings completed during this period were:

Health Centre, Charlestown.

Education Centre, Basseterre.

Pavilion and Community Centre, Sandy Point.

Nurses' Lecture Room and X-ray Room, Basseterre.

Terminal Building—Newcastle Airport, Nevis.

The Post Office and Customs Building, Basseterre, and the Administration Building and Police Station, Anguilla were under construction.

### AIRPORTS

In June, 1958 the Newcastle Airport, Nevis, was opened (see Chapter 11, page 52).

Included in the colony's Development Plan for 1955–1960 is a scheme for lengthening Golden Rock Airport, St. Kitts. This work was begun late in 1958, with the construction of the diversion along the Basseterre—St. Peters Road. The airport is to be lengthened by 1,500 feet to a total length of 6,000 feet and widened from 300 to 500 feet. It was estimated that the work should be completed early in 1960.

### WATER SUPPLY

Apart from a six-week period in 1958, water supplies were satisfactorily maintained during the two years under review, even though in 1957 the longest drought for nearly 40 years was recorded.

Improvement schemes were launched in all the islands. In Nevis the pumped supply from Camp River was extended from a storage tank by gravity for nearly three miles to the villages of Cotton Ground, Barnes Ghaut and Jessups. In Anguilla extensions were made to West End, The Quarter, Little Dix and Long Bay. Storage tanks were built at East End and West End.

In St. Kitts a 40,000-gallon balancing tank was built at Mansion to improve the supply to the Northern District. The Stonefort intake was reconstructed, and the Wingfield Scheme to increase the water supply at Basseterre was begun.

### STAFF

The staffing position of the Department was improved by the addition of a surveyor, an engineering draughtsman, and a Superintendent of Public Works who was appointed in December, 1957.

## *Chapter 11: Communications*

### **SHIPPING**

COMMUNICATIONS between the colony and the United Kingdom were maintained by vessels of the Harrison Line which called once a month at St. Kitts direct from London to discharge general cargo. Vessels of this line also loaded sugar and cotton for the United Kingdom. During the sugar-reaping season there were approximately two calls per month loading for the United Kingdom. Calls were made to load cotton when sufficient tonnage offered.

Communications between the colony and western Europe were maintained by a monthly direct service by vessels of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company. These vessels loaded at Bremen, Hamburg, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

Communications between the eastern Canadian ports of Montreal, Halifax and St. John changed considerably during the period 1957-1958. From about June, 1958, vessels of the Canadian National Steamship Company were strike-bound and this line discontinued its service to St. Kitts. The Alcoa Steamship Company Inc. which maintained a service from these ports to St. Kitts also terminated its service from April, 1957. Two new services have taken their place. Saguenay Shipping Ltd. inaugurated a fortnightly service from Montreal and Halifax during the open navigation on the St. Lawrence, and from Halifax and St. John, N.B. during the winter months. Messrs. Lamport & Holt Line Ltd. also inaugurated a service from these ports from May, 1957, with monthly calls. They have, however, increased their calls to a fortnightly service as from December, 1958.

A direct monthly service from New York to St. Kitts was inaugurated in October, 1957 by the Booth Steamship Company Ltd.

Inter-island shipping facilities have been as follows:

The s.s. *West Indian* terminated her service in December, 1957. From early 1958 a new Federal Government Shipping Service was inaugurated with two chartered cargo-carrying vessels, the s.s. *Oluf Sven* and the s.s. *Herman Langreder*, with limited accommodation for deck passengers. They maintained a fortnightly service both north and south-bound from Trinidad to Jamaica calling at all the islands.

During the period from December, 1957, to July, 1958, Saguenay Shipping Ltd. also maintained a monthly north-bound service loading at Trinidad for the islands as far north as St. Kitts and accepting cargo for Canada. This service has since been terminated.

The inter-island shipping service which was being run by the three Bays Line, m.v. *Maracas Bay* and m.v. *Pensacola Bay*, has also been terminated.

Inter-island service from Barbados via Dominica, Antigua and Montserrat was maintained by the m.v. *Caribbee* on a regular fortnightly schedule and also by two other 100-ton motor vessels which made intermittent calls. The monthly direct service from Curacao which was inaugurated in December, 1954, by the Dutch motor vessel *Antillia* was maintained.

#### CIVIL AVIATION

British West Indian Airways maintained a weekly service between St. Kitts (Golden Rock Airport) and other islands of the British and French West Indies, and Puerto Rico. The services to Jamaica and Barbados connect with the services of British Overseas Airways to the United Kingdom. B.W.I.A. made 374 calls at St. Kitts during 1957 and 606 during 1958.

K.L.M. continued to maintain a service between Curacao and St. Martin, calling at Guadeloupe and St. Kitts.

The Leeward Islands Air Transport (L.I.A.T.) which began operations in July, 1956, maintained a regular weekly service to Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, St. Eustatius, St. Martin, Anguilla and Puerto Rico. The islands of Nevis, Barbados and Dominica were added to the schedule of L.I.A.T. in 1958. The aircrafts used are Piper Apaches, and Beechcraft twin Bonanza.

A small airfield on the island of Nevis was completed and officially opened on 5th June, 1958. The runway is a grass strip 1,500 feet long and 90 feet wide. Plans for future improvements provide for the extension of the metalled runway to a length of 2,640 feet and a width of 300 feet to cope with heavier aircraft which are likely to be used in due course. The existing airstrip meets the present requirements of L.I.A.T. The airfield is located on the northern side of the island about 6½ miles from Charlestown, the capital.

Preliminary work was begun on the extension of the Golden Rock Airfield, St. Kitts, to cater for larger types of aircraft (see Chapter 10, page 50).

Aeronautical telecommunications services in St. Kitts are operated by International Aeradio (West Indies) Limited, in accordance with agreements entered into with the Governments of these colonies.

#### RAILWAYS

There is one narrow gauge light railway in the colony, which is in St. Kitts and is owned and operated by the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory. Its total length is 36 miles. This railway is used to transport sugar-cane from the fields to the sugar factory and sugar from the factory to the wharf.

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited maintain a station in St. Kitts which is connected by cable with other parts of the West Indies. Radio-telephony services are operated by the company with other islands in the West Indies, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States.

A limited local service is operated by the Government between St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla.

### *Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services*

#### PRESS

THE following newspapers and periodicals were published in the colony during the period under review:

- Fortnightly: *The St. Christopher-Nevis and Anguilla Official Gazette.*  
Weekly: *The Democrat; Nevis Recorder.*  
Daily: *The St. Kitts-Nevis Daily Bulletin;*  
*Union Messenger; Labour Spokesman.*

#### BROADCASTING

There is no broadcasting station in St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla.

#### FILMS

Two 16-mm. motion picture cameras are owned by the Government of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla and during the period under review approximately 300 feet of films was used. The films produced included:

- (i) The Alexander Hamilton Bicentennial Celebrations, Nevis (150 feet).
- (ii) The Social Welfare Department's Homes, Gardens and Families Festival, 1958 (100 feet).

There is one commercial cinema using 35-mm. film in Basseterre. In addition, 16-mm. commercial films are shown at five small cinemas in St. Kitts and Nevis.

#### GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

There is no Public Relations or Information Department in the colony but information was disseminated as far as possible through press releases and public notices. Material received from the Central Office of Information in London was distributed as widely as possible. Portable 16-mm. sound film projectors were used to give free entertainment and educational shows. British newsreels and other films supplied by the Central Office of Information were shown frequently to schools and to adult audiences.

### *Chapter 13: Local Forces*

THE St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla Defence Force was reorganised in 1913 and was on active service during the wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45. The force is a purely voluntary body and no member receives any pay and allowances save when the force is embodied for actual service, or is on active service, or on annual training. During 1954, a new and up-to-date Ordinance was enacted repealing the laws relating to the Defence Force and Defence Reserve and making suitable provision for the control, training and discipline of the force. The Defence Reserve was abolished in 1954.

The strength of the Defence Force at the end of 1958 was six officers and 76 men, 20 of whom comprise the band. All ranks are trained in foot and arms drill and shoot an annual musketry course.

The Defence Force takes part in two major ceremonial parades each year—Her Majesty's Birthday parade and the Remembrance Day Service—and also provides the Guard of Honour for the Governor-General of The West Indies and the Governor of the Leeward Islands when they visit the colony officially.

There is a Cadet Corps attached to the Grammar School.

## PART III

### *Chapter 1: Geography and Climate*

ST. KITTS and Nevis are tops of the submerged inner range of mountains which once ran in a curve from the coast of Venezuela to Yucatan and Florida. The two islands are separated by a strait three miles wide, in the midst of which rises the rock known as Booby Island. Anguilla which is situated some 60 miles north of St. Kitts, is formed by a mass of coral built on the foreland of the submerged range. It has a flat surface, the highest point rising only 213 feet above the sea. This is in contrast with St. Kitts and Nevis, which rise respectively to 3,711 and 3,596 feet. Both St. Kitts and Nevis are volcanic, Mount Misery in St. Kitts being an eroded cone with a large crater.

The climate of the islands is governed by their position, elevation, and direction of axis. Their latitude of between  $17\frac{1}{2}$  and  $18\frac{1}{2}$  N. places them near the high pressure belt of calm, descending air, which lies along the Tropic of Cancer. Hence, as compared with the islands farther east, they have a lower mean temperature, and broadly speaking, a lower rainfall. St. Kitts, whose long axis lies athwart the Trade Winds, has a mean average temperature of 78.8 F. with a mean rainfall of 54 inches. Nevis enjoys a similar temperature, but has a mean rainfall of only 48 inches owing to its compact shape, whilst the low-lying Anguilla, whose long axis runs parallel to the path of the Trades, is too dry to support the luxuriant forest characteristic of the West Indies and is largely covered with low bushes. The islands lie in the path of the hurricanes which sweep through the Caribbean between July and November: St. Kitts was struck by one in 1899 and with Nevis suffered damage from high seas following a hurricane in November, 1956. Earth tremors occur in both islands.

In St. Kitts and Nevis the parts of the hills above 1,200 feet are covered with forest which in the latter island is protected by law in order to maintain the rainfall. Some of the trees, like lignum vitae, locust, and galba, yield good hardwood, and others, like the breadfruit, mango, pawpaw, soursop, avocado pear, sapodilla, and cashew, bear fruit which are much used for local consumption. The small extent of the forests, which is 18,000 acres out of the total land area of 96,000 acres, does not enable much economic use to be made of the timber trees.

In St. Kitts most of the cultivable land, which consists of the lower slopes of the hills, is divided into large, privately owned sugar plantations ("estates.") The labourers grow subsistence crops of sweet potatoes, yams, cassava, maize, peas, beans, greens, bananas, etc., on the upper parts of the slopes. In Nevis the land is nearly all in the hands of peasant proprietors, and the same is true to an even greater extent in Anguilla.

The chief economic crops in St. Kitts and Nevis are the traditional sugar-cane and cotton. A recent enterprise in cotton cultivation has had some success in Anguilla. In St. Kitts these crops are cultivated chiefly on plantations which send their canes to a central factory near Basseterre to be turned into sugar, syrup, and rum. The cotton crop, which is ginned locally, is much affected by a pest known as the pink bollworm.

In St. Kitts, where the population was nearly doubled between 1938 and 1955, some 14,000 persons live in Basseterre, the administrative capital of the islands. In Nevis and Anguilla the sparse population is more evenly distributed.

## *Chapter 2: History*

THE colony consists of three islands: St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla. St. Christopher, or St. Kitts, and Nevis were discovered by Christopher Columbus on his second voyage to the West Indies in 1493, while Anguilla is said to have been discovered and colonised by the English in 1650.

British West Indian colonisation dates from January, 1623, when Captain Thomas Warner (afterwards Sir Thomas Warner) landed with a party at St. Kitts on the bay where the town of Old Road now stands, and with the licence of the Carib King, Tegreeman, founded a settlement there. St. Kitts was also the site of the first French colony, the island being divided between British and French colonists during the first year of its occupation by European settlers. The branch colonies which sprang from this settlement gave St. Kitts the proud title of "Mother of the Antilles."

Five years after the colonisation of St. Kitts, the English from St. Kitts established themselves in Nevis, under the protection and guidance of Captain Thomas Warner.

While Nevis was enjoying a period of comparative prosperity after its colonisation, St. Kitts was the scene of several battles between the English and the French for its entire possession. From 1666

there was constant war between the two occupying forces until 1783 when, by the Treaty of Versailles, St. Kitts became an entirely British possession and has remained so ever since. By this same treaty, Nevis, which was invaded and seized by the French for the last time in 1782, was also restored to British sovereignty.

Apart from several incursions by the French and frequent plunderings by marauders, Anguilla has remained a British possession since its colonisation. The last attempt at capturing Anguilla was made by the French in 1796; but due to the timely arrival of Captain Robert Barton, commanding H.M.S. *Lapwing*, the defenceless inhabitants of the island were saved from complete annihilation.

The best known events in the colony's history are perhaps the defence of Brimstone Hill in St. Kitts in 1782, an action which ultimately contributed to the defeat of the French fleet at "The Saints," near Dominica by Rodney; the marriage at Nevis in 1787 of Lord Nelson, commander of the Leeward Islands Naval Station, and the young widow Nisbet of Nevis; and the birth at Charlestown, Nevis, in 1757 of Alexander Hamilton, the son of a Scottish planter, who became one of the draughtsmen of the American constitution. The remains of his alleged birth-place are still to be seen

### *Chapter 3: Administration*

THE colony of St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla came into existence on the 1st July, 1956, the day appointed for the coming into operation of the Leeward Islands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order in Council, 1956, (S.I. No. 833) made under the Leeward Islands Act, 1956 (4 & 5 Eliz. 2, Ch. 23). This Act, which constituted the Presidencies of the Leeward Islands separate colonies, repealed the Leeward Islands Act, 1871, and thus abrogated the federal constitution created in 1871, under which the Leeward Islands colony was established with five Presidencies, namely, Antigua with Barbuda and Redonda; St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla; Montserrat; Dominica and the British Virgin Islands. "Defederation," as it is called, had begun in 1940 when Dominica ceased to be a Presidency of the Leeward Islands and became a separate colony under the Governor of the Windward Islands. It was completed by the Leeward Islands Act, 1956.

The colony is administered under the Governor of the Leeward Islands in a manner similar to the Windward Islands. The following central departments are directly responsible to the Governor of the Leeward Islands: Secretariat, Audit and Police. The functions of

the Crown Attorney of Antigua have been fused with those of the Attorney General of the Leeward Islands who continues as the Governor's Legal Adviser.

Besides the three islands of St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla, the colony includes the island of Sombrero which was formally transferred from the Presidency of the Virgin Islands to St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla with effect from the 1st May, 1956. As Sombrero contains only a lighthouse and a lighthouse-keeper and three other residents, all natives of the colony, and as the island has for some time been under the supervision of the Treasurer of the colony, the transfer was effected solely for purposes of administrative convenience.

The constitution of 1952 established under the St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla Constitution and Elections Ordinance, No. 5 of 1952, introduced universal adult suffrage into the colony and provided that every lay resident British subject (not of unsound mind, adjudicated bankrupt, or under sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding 12 months) was, subject to a simple literacy test, qualified for election to the Legislative Council.

Another reform was the introduction of the Membership system which was replaced by a Ministerial system on the 19th January, 1956. Under the Ministerial system the Governor issues directions assigning certain departments or subjects of administration to the three elected members of the Executive Council who are respectively styled Minister of Trade and Production, Minister of Communications and Works, and Minister of Social Services.

The Ministers and official members of the Executive Council have administrative responsibility for the Government departments grouped under them and in the discharge of their functions they act through the Heads of the departments.

The Executive Council (now the principal instrument of policy) includes the Governor or Administrator (as President), the Crown Attorney, the Financial Secretary, one nominated member of the Legislative Council, nominated by the Governor, and five elected members of the Legislative Council, elected by the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, the fifth elected member having been chosen from among the Nevis Members to represent Nevis in the Executive Council. Neither the Governor nor the Administrator has an original vote in the Council but, if on any question the votes are equally divided, the Governor or the Administrator, as the case may be, may, if presiding, give a casting vote. Elected members thus have a voting majority on the Executive Council.

As in other British territories with similar constitutions, the Governor's reserve legislative powers, as prescribed by the Constitution and Elections Ordinance, are retained.

The Legislative Council consists of the President (the Administrator), the Crown Attorney and the Financial Secretary *ex officio*, eight elected members and three nominated members. Universal adult suffrage exists in the colony.

A Public Service Commission created by statute and composed of members appointed by the Governor, advises the Governor on questions relating to the control of public officers and other matters affecting the Public Service.

Note.—The above describes the situation as it was in 1957 and 1958. There were important constitutional changes on 1st January, 1960, including the abolition of the post of Governor of the Leeward Islands, the appointment of a Chief Minister, an increase in the total number of ministers from three to four, and some alterations in the composition of the Executive and Legislative Councils.

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STANDARD imperial weights and measures are used in the colony. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is provided by law.

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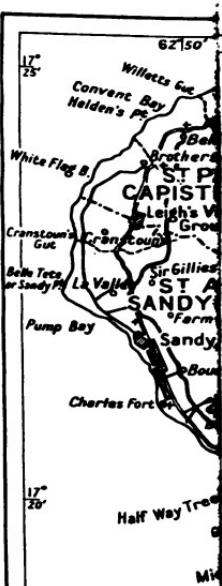
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# ST KITTS AND NEVIS

Scale of Miles

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## REFERENCE

- Parish Boundaries -----
- Railways -----
- Main Roads -----
- Other " -----
- Perennial Rivers -----
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# St.Kitts-Nevis- Anguilla 1959-1962

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## PART I

### *Chapter 1: General Review of 1959 to 1962*

THE most significant event of the period under review was the constitutional changes which came into effect on the 1st January 1960. The changes were provided in the St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla Constitutions Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1959, which provided for the abolition of the post of Governor of the Leeward Islands and the revision of the duties to be performed by the Administrator of the territory; the creation of the Office of Speaker of the Legislative Council and the re-designation of the post of Crown Attorney as Attorney-General. The Ordinance also provides for the Legislative Council to consist of one *ex-officio* Member, namely, the Attorney-General, two nominated members and ten elected members. The St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla—Letters Patent, 1959, also came into operation on the 1st January 1960 and replaced the Leeward Islands Letters Patent of 1956 and 1958. The new Letters Patent provide for the appointment of a Chief Minister by the Administrator acting in his discretion, and three other Ministers and a member without Portfolio on the advice of the Chief Minister.

General elections were held in November 1961, and resulted in the St. Kitts Workers' League winning all seven seats in St. Kitts. In Nevis, the United Movement won the two seats and Anguilla returned one independent candidate. Prior to the 1961 general elections, St. Kitts was divided into five electoral districts. For the first time, the Government appointed enumerators to make a house to house enquiry for the purpose of a new requirement of compulsory registration for all persons qualified to vote.

On 4th September 1960, hurricane Donna struck the territory. The island of Anguilla experienced the full force of the hurricane to the extent that about 35 per cent of all buildings were damaged and about 2,000 persons were left homeless. Shipping in Anguilla was also severely affected. St. Kitts and Nevis were fortunate to have only been touched by the fringes of the hurricane which caused minor damage to property and damage to the roads in Nevis. H.M.S. *Ulster*, which was in Port-of-Spain on the 3rd September, immediately left for the Leeward Islands and gave valuable assistance to Anguilla throughout the hurricane relief operations.

Broadcasting began in St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla in March 1961. The station (known as Radio ZIZ) was opened by His Excellency Lord Hailes, K.B.E., then Governor-General of the then Federation of The West Indies.

In 1959 Mr. G. A. Brown, Director of the Planning Unit in the Jamaica Government, was loaned by that Government to undertake a financial and economic survey of the territory. His report indicated that there was evidence of stagnation in the economy of the territory as the sole crop, sugar, was proving inadequate and advised that steps be taken to broaden the scope and basis of the economy. Many of the detailed recommendations in the report have been adopted.

A Commission of Inquiry was appointed in July 1961 to examine and report upon the organisation and operation of the sugar industry in St. Kitts. Messrs. J. B. MacKenzie and A. F. Mackenzie of Urwick, Orr and Partners International Ltd., London, were appointed as Chairman and Commissioner respectively under the Commission of Inquiry Act (Cap 116). The hearings before the Commission of Inquiry took place in October 1961.

Implementation of an Agricultural Development Plan for the island of Nevis, based upon the recommendations of a team of agricultural experts under the Chairmanship of Mr. A. de K. Frampton, C.M.G., which visited Nevis in 1955, was started in March 1959. Most of the recommendations were adopted during the period under review and some progress in the agricultural industry of the island has been made.

A population census was undertaken in April 1960. The total number of people in the colony was found to be 56,591. The distribution was St. Kitts 38,273; Nevis 12,750; and Anguilla 5,568.

The Government continued its efforts to develop the tourist industry in St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla. Plans for the encouragement of tourism in the territory were initiated during the period under review. Promotional work included the publication of information sheets and tourist magazines. There is also a Government-controlled Tourist Board. The Government plans to set aside certain areas in development estates for the erection of hotels and other related features. There are about seventeen small hotels and guest houses, ranging between six and sixteen rooms in the territory.

The Police Ordinance 1959 (No. 29 of 1959) was passed in the Legislative Council in December 1959. The new legislation gave effect to the agreement reached in the Constitutional Conference of the Leeward-Windward Islands held in London in June 1959, to

divide the unified Police Force which served the Leeward Islands into two separate Police Forces. It created a separate Police Force for St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla.

A severe drought was experienced in 1961 which considerably affected the sugar crop for 1962. Sugar is the principal crop of the territory on which its economy is based. The tonnage of sugar produced in the years 1959 to 1962 was 46,790 tons, 50,179 tons, 46,957 tons and 43,167 tons respectively. In 1959 and 1961 a considerable amount of canes had to be left unreaped because of labour shortage. The position was improved later by the introduction of railway combined sidings and mechanical loaders. A bulk sugar storage and loading installation was also introduced.

The Minister of Communications and Works, the Hon. C. A. Paul Southwell, in 1959 had discussions with the Nuffield Foundation in London about the production of a master plan for a new hospital in Basseterre, the capital of St. Kitts, to accommodate 164 beds. Arrangements are being made to commence work on the project in 1965.

In the public sector, the period under review saw the completion of the five year development plan 1955/60 and the launching of the plan for the following five year period. The major activities in the development field comprised the completion of the large electricity expansion project, the commencement of laying out the Pond Pasture area in Basseterre as a complex to house industrial sites, residential areas, an infants' school, new fire station, etc.; the completion of the extension to the Airport runway together with the provision of ancillary fire service; and work on the re-building of the seawall and jetty at Charlestown, Nevis. The St. Kitts water supply was substantially improved and road improvement projects were also put in hand in the three islands. A new automatic telephone system was introduced into Basseterre and its environs, involving the construction of a modern automatic Exchange building complete with air-conditioning. Fisheries improvements were begun in St. Kitts. On the social development side, a large senior school for 1,000 pupils was erected in Basseterre, and a new school built at Newton Ground. The secondary schools in Anguilla and Nevis were extended, and a technical wing added to a school in St. Kitts. A maternity ward was added to the Nevis Hospital and an extension made to the Pogson Hospital in St. Kitts. Development in the private sector included the establishment of a modern brewery, the extension of the soft drinks factory, and the setting up of a small local cigarette factory.

## PART II

### *Chapter 1: Population*

THE following figures show the actual population of the territory in 1946 when a census was taken, the estimated population at 31st December 1959, the actual population as at 7th April 1960, when the last census was taken, and the estimated population at 31st December 1961 and 1962, respectively:

1946	1959	1960	1961	1962
46,243	59,700	56,693	59,200	60,000

Vital Statistics are given in Chapter 7, p. 38.

### *Chapter 2: Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation*

#### EMPLOYMENT

THE estimated numbers employed in the principal occupations during the period 1959–62 were as follows:

#### *Estimated Numbers Employed in the Sugar Industry*

Year	Sugar Estates			Sugar Factory		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1959 . .	4,000	2,500	6,500	845	13	858
1960 . .	4,000	2,500	6,500	845	16	861
1961 . .	4,000	2,500	6,500	795	15	810
1962 . .	4,000	2,500	6,500	785	22	807

#### *Estimated Numbers Employed in other Main Occupations*

Year	Government Departments			Waterfront Workers
	Male	Female	Total	
1959 . .	1,228	136	1,364	280
1960 . .	1,250	140	1,390	227
1961 . .	1,250	136	1,386	222
1962 . .	1,300	140	1,440	233

No figures are available of the incidence of unemployment, but from the seasonal nature of employment on the sugar estates and the absence of alternative jobs, it seems clear that there is a high level of under-employment in the out-of-crop season, say from August to January.

There were 98 workers engaged in agricultural work in the United States at 31st December 1959; 78 at 31st December 1960; 54 at 31st December 1961 and three at 31st December 1962. Recruitment of workers to the United States is handled by the Department of Labour on behalf of the Regional Labour Board which controls the Scheme. The Regional Labour Board is composed of Government delegates of all participating countries. Government control is exercised through the Board which maintains representatives in the United States together with a liaison staff.

Workers placed in agricultural employment in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands totalled 40 in 1959, 26 in 1960, 26 in 1961 and 28 in 1962. These workers were employed mainly as cane-cutters on contracts lasting between three and four months.

A strangely paradoxical situation existed in the territory during 1960 and 1961 in that workers were recruited for work outside the territory and at the same time it became necessary to import labour from outside to assist in the harvesting of the local sugar crop. The main reason for that was to be found in the upsurge of migration, chiefly to Britain. This was in no way lessened by the many attempts at incentives introduced with a view to halting the alarming exodus of the territory's practised and seasoned workers. As a direct result of this situation, 223 workers were imported from Barbados during 1960 and 208 from St. Lucia in 1961.

With the passing into law of the United Kingdom Immigration Act in 1962, migration figures have revealed a downward trend in the numbers leaving for Britain and there was no need to import labour during 1962.

During each of the years from 1959 to 1962, nine girls were recruited for domestic service in Canada. These girls become Canadian citizens and are free to take up any kind of employment within the Dominion after serving for one year in domestic service in keeping with the terms of a written undertaking which they are obliged to give beforehand.

An advantageous feature of the scheme is that at the end of the one-year period the girls are allowed to have their near relatives join them to take up permanent residence in Canada.

Migration to Britain showed a downward trend in 1959 for the first time in three years but this, if taken as an indication of movement outward, was short-lived, for in 1960 the figures rose again

to a total of 2,720 as against 945 in 1959. The figure in 1961 was 2,407 and in 1962 the figure fell off sharply to 651 due, no doubt, to the impact of the United Kingdom Immigration Act of that year.

There are no employment exchanges in the territory.

#### WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

In 1959 there was a general increase in the sugar industry of 2.6 per cent. No increase was granted in 1960. In 1961 there was a further general increase of five per cent. In 1962 the sum of \$50,000 was withdrawn from the Sugar Price Stabilisation Fund to meet a demand for a general wage increase,—this expressed as a percentage increase was 1.25 per cent on wage rates for 1961. This increase was, however, in the form of a special payment and did not alter the basic rates which remained at the 1961 figure.

Wage rates during the period under review were as shown below:

	1959 \$	1960 \$	1961 \$	1962 \$
<i>Estate Male Labourers</i>				
per day . . . . .	1.54	1.54	1.62	1.62
Cutters—per ton . . . . .	1.15	1.15	1.21	1.21
Handers—per ton . . . . .	.49	.49	.51	.51
	.61 } .61 }	.61 } .61 }	.64 } .75 }	.64 } .75 }
	.71 } .71 }	.71 } .71 }	.75 } .75 }	.75 } .75 }
Packers—per ton . . . . .	.71	.71	.75	.75
Tractor Drivers—per ton . . . . .	.09 } .23 }	.09 } .23 }	.10 } .24 }	.10 } .24 }
Truck Drivers—per ton . . . . .	.22	.22	.23	.23
<i>Broussard Mechanical Loaders: Operatives</i>				
Packers—per ton . . . . .	—	—	.82	.82
Cutters—per ton . . . . .	—	—	1.36	1.36
<i>Operators of Broussard Loaders</i>				
Loaders—per ton . . . . .	—	—	.13	.13
Tractor Drivers—per ton . . . . .	—	—	.21*	.21*
Siding Cleaners—per day . . . . .	—	—	1.40	1.40
Brakemen—per ton . . . . .	—	—	.25†	.25†

\*Pooling among the drivers employed (usually two to each Loader).

† Applied as in the case of the tractor drivers (usually five in number).

	\$	\$	\$	\$
<i>Estate Female Labourers</i>				
per day . . . . .	1.06	1.06	1.11	1.11
	1.22 } .28 }	1.22 } .28 }	1.28 } .28 }	1.28 } .28 }
Farming (weeding) cotton . . . . .	1.48	1.48	1.55	1.55
per acre . . . . .	1.74	1.74	1.83	1.83
Picking cotton—per 100lb . . . . .	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.30
Cleaning cotton—				
per 100lb . . . . .	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20
Pulling cotton—per acre . . . . .	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65
Heaping cotton—per acre . . . . .	.40	.40	.40	.40
Burning cotton—per acre . . . . .	.26	.26	.26	.26
Cleaning up field—				
per acre . . . . .	3.34	3.34	3.34	3.34
<i>Ginnery Labourers</i>				
Male (per day) . . . . .	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Female (per day) . . . . .	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20

Wage rates in other occupations were:

*Artisans:* per day \$3.08 to \$5.25

*Road Maintenance:* Male Labourers, per day \$2.72 to \$2.88

*Road Maintenance:* Female Labourers, per day \$1.92 to \$2.08

*Commercial Store Clerks:* Male, per week \$10.00 to \$30.00

*Commercial Store Clerks:* Female, per week \$6.00 to \$25.00

*Domestic Servants:* Female, per week \$5.00 to \$12.00

The normal pattern of overtime rates is time and one half for ordinary week days, and double time on Sundays and Public Holidays.

Bonuses are paid annually in most industries. Government gives its non-establishment workers a bonus, usually in November in each year. These payments amount to 50 per cent of the workers' entitlement under the Holidays with Pay Ordinance, 1956.

All weekly, fortnightly, monthly, or yearly paid employees who have worked for the same employer for an aggregate of at least 240 days and in the case of any other employees, at least 150 days, in any period of 12 consecutive months are, under the provisions of the Holidays with Pay Ordinance, 1956, entitled to an annual holiday with pay of 14 working days. Termination of employment (before qualifying) for whatsoever cause does not cancel a worker's holiday; he must at termination of his employment be deemed to have taken his holiday and be paid holiday pay proportionate to his service.

The working week varies in different classes of employment between 40 and 48 hours.

There is no night work by women in any industrial undertaking.

#### COST OF LIVING

The Retail Price Index issued by the Labour Department once a quarter is based upon the sampling of prices on 229 items arranged into 12 groups, as follows:

		Number of Items
Cereals . . . . .		11
Meat and Fish . . . . .		20
Dairy Produce, Oils and Fats . . . . .		12
Fruit and Vegetables . . . . .		18
Other Foods, and Beverages . . . . .		15
Liquor and Tobacco . . . . .		13
Textiles, Clothing, Footwear . . . . .	48	(Men, Women and Children)
Toilet Accessories, Cleaning Materials and Medicines . . . . .		31
Household Goods and Tools . . . . .		24
Fuel and Light . . . . .		9
Transport . . . . .		10
Building Materials . . . . .		18
Total . . . . .		<u>229</u>

The index does not measure rents, or the cost of services, e.g. hairdressing, public transport fares, entertainment, upkeep of clothing and footwear; nor does it measure insurance costs.

Prices at 15th October 1951 are taken as "Base" = 100 and surveys are conducted quarterly.

Weightings both within and between the "Groups" were based on the estimated consumption of the entire population.

The index of retail price movements for the period under review was:

<i>Year</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>November</i>
1959 . .	125.8	127.3	129.0	130.2
1960 . .	130.5	133.8	133.8	133.1
1961 . .	130.4	130.2	130.2	131.8
1962 . .	129.0	133.2	133.4	133.4

The following table shows the actual retail prices of the principal items of food-stuffs at December in each year:

*Prices of Foodstuffs*

	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
	<i>cents</i>	<i>cents</i>	<i>cents</i>	<i>cents</i>
Rice . .	16	16	17	17
Cornmeal . .	15	14	15	15
Flour . .	12	12	12.5	12.5
Cooking Oil . .	81	75	82.5	85
Margarine . .	59	59	59	58
Salt Pork . .	62	68	72	76
Salt Fish . .	47	49	49	55
Fresh Fish . .	25	38	40	42
Dried Peas . .	50	34	33	34
Fresh Meat . .	56	54	54	54
Fresh Milk . .	16	16	16	16
Onions . .	25	22	24	22
Ground Provisions	10	20	22	32
Sugar				
grey crystals . .	10	10	10	10
Cocoa . .	76	78	76	76

A household budgetary survey commenced in November 1960 came to an end in October 1961.

#### LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The Labour Department maintains only one office, which is in the capital, Basseterre, St. Christopher. Its main duties are:

- (a) to foster and help to maintain good industrial relations;
- (b) to encourage collective bargaining and where necessary the institution of statutory wage-fixing machinery;
- (c) to study existing labour organisations and advise on principles of organisation and collective bargaining;

- (d) to improve industrial relations by maintaining constant contact with employers and workers and investigating all representations whether of employers or of workers concerning any business, trade, occupation or employment with a view to the settlement of disputes and grievances, especially concerning hours of work and regulation of wages, and to provide a free conciliation service;
- (e) to inspect regularly and systematically all work-places with a view to establishing proper conditions and reducing accidents and occupational diseases to a minimum, and to advise both workers and employers upon matters connected with the safety, health and welfare of work-people;
- (f) to protect women and juvenile workers;
- (g) to review labour laws in relation to International Labour Conventions;
- (h) to administer apprentice and other industrial training;
- (i) to collect and analyse statistics with particular reference to:
  - (i) employment and unemployment
  - (ii) wage rates and earnings
  - (iii) employment of women, young persons and children
  - (iv) cost of living
  - (v) hours of work
  - (vi) holiday pay
  - (vii) industrial accidents;
- (j) to advise the Government with regard to the betterment of industrial relations, and generally on all labour matters; and
- (k) to ensure that the labour laws are observed.

As a result of a Manpower Seminar held under the joint sponsorship of the International Labour Organisation and the University College of the West Indies at Jamaica in 1960, it is proposed to set up a Manpower Research Unit in the territory as soon as trained personnel becomes available.

#### INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Of the trade unions registered during the period of review, five were active in representing their members—four workers' unions and one employers' union. Of the others, two were struck off the register in 1959 and a third which showed signs of activity at the beginning of that year slumped back into inactivity as the year progressed. This union has since been struck off the register.

Wages in the larger sectors of employment are arrived at by collective bargaining and the influence of the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union is such that other wages generally tend to remain in line with negotiated wages.

Industrial relations were satisfactory; there was no major stoppage of work and such disputes as arose were for the most part settled on the spot, or in rare cases at formal meetings between representatives of the workers' and employers' unions. A breakdown in 1959 in the sugar industry wage negotiations between the Sugar Producers' Association and the St. Kitts-Nevis Trades and Labour Union was referred to the Administrator, the then Official Member in charge of Labour, for settlement. Reference was also made to the Minister for Labour in 1961 in similar circumstances.

#### **SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE**

The prevailing standards of safety, health and welfare provisions in agriculture continue to show improvement, though slowly. In sugar manufacturing, which is by far the largest industry in the territory, and the second largest employer of labour, safety standards are generally satisfactory and health and welfare facilities compare favourably with similar conditions elsewhere in the West Indies. The medical centre continues to serve its purpose and the social centre, which was opened in February 1960 for the benefit of all workers, includes a canteen service and a barber shop among its amenities.

Workers on sugar estates are entitled to medical attention at the employer's expense, but employers have not yet jointly or severally organised health services for their workers. Estates have, however, made a beginning in providing welfare facilities for their workers.

#### **INDUSTRIAL TRAINING**

There are no organised schemes for the training of adult workers, or for the rehabilitation of the disabled, except in the island of Nevis where there is a school for the blind which is run under the auspices of the Social Welfare Department. However, some industrial training in building crafts, motor mechanics, welding, engineering and metal working, is available through schemes operated by the Craftsmen Selection Board (under Government auspices) and the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory Co. Ltd. These two sources provided training for 91 apprentices in 1959, 75 in 1960, 79 in 1961 and 76 in 1962. The Extra-Mural Department of the University College of the West Indies provided courses at the sugar factory.

In 1960 another step forward was taken with the opening of a technical wing attached to the Grammar School. This Wing was provided under the Canadian Technical Assistance Programme and is one of five such institutions donated to the Region by the Canadian Government. It provides training in wood-work and metal-work up to the level of the Cambridge School Certificate for pupils of the

Grammar School. Pupils of senior schools and apprentices will be prepared for the examination of the City and Guilds of London Institute.

The present building has proven inadequate for the needs of a growing population desirous of obtaining technical training and to meet the demand a new Wing is being constructed adjacent to the original Wing.

### *Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation*

THE colony's financial year runs from the 1st January to the 31st December.

#### REVENUE

Colony revenue, less self-balancing items, as originally estimated for 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1962, is shown below against actual collection for 1959 and revised estimates for 1960 as well as actual collection for 1961 and revised estimates for 1962:

	1959 Estimate . . .	1960 Actual Revenue . . .	1961 4,972,492	1962 5,022,062
	4,535,042	4,721,710	4,594,357	5,203,424

The following table shows the actual revenue for 1959 to 1961 and the revised estimate of revenue for 1962 under the main heads:

	1959 Actual	Per cent. of True Reven-	1960 Actual	Per cent. of True Reven-
	\$		\$	
<i>Revenue from Taxation</i>				
Income Tax . . .	1,067,542	24.5	1,093,685	24.3
Other Taxes . . .	212,299	4.8	235,613	5.3
<i>Total Direct Taxes</i> . . .	1,279,841	29.3	1,329,298	29.6
Customs and Excise . . .	2,005,417	46.0	2,038,139	45.3
Licences . . .	61,027	1.4	58,016	1.3
Other Internal Revenue . . .	220,442	5.0	235,501	5.2
<i>Total Tax Revenue</i> . . .	3,566,727	81.7	3,660,954	81.4
Fees of Court or Office . . .	30,936	.7	22,584	.5
Post Office, Telephones, Electricity and Cold Storage . . .	356,218	8.2	409,610	9.1
Other Items . . .	409,254	9.4	403,506	9.0
<b>Total</b> . . .	<b>4,363,135</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>4,496,654</b>	<b>100.0</b>

	1961 Actual	Per cent. of True Reve- nue	1962 Revised	Per cent. of True Reve- nue
<i>Revenue from Taxation</i>	\$		\$	
Income Tax . . .	961,233	20.9	1,379,647	26.5
Other Taxes . . .	251,329	5.5	251,303	4.8
<i>Total Direct Taxes</i> . .	1,212,562	26.4	1,630,950	31.3
Customs and Excise . .	2,182,761	47.5	2,260,971	43.5
Licences . . .	58,860	1.3	56,377	1.1
Other Internal Revenue . .	259,537	5.6	263,000	5.1
<i>Total Tax Revenue</i> . .	3,713,720	80.8	4,211,298	81.0
Fees of Court or Office . .	31,332	.7	31,191	.6
Post Office, Telephones, Elec- tricity and Cold Storage . .	493,670	10.8	568,718	10.9
Other Items . . .	355,635	7.7	392,217	7.5
Total . . .	4,594,357	100.0	5,203,424	100.0

Revenue per head of population for these years was as shown in the following table:

	1959 59,700	1960 59,079	1961 59,196	1962 60,451
Estimated population . . .				
Direct Taxation . . .	\$1,279,841	\$1,329,298	\$1,212,562	\$1,630,950
Indirect Taxation . . .	2,286,886	2,331,656	2,501,158	2,580,348
Tax Revenue per head . . .	59.74	61.96	62.74	69.66
Other Sources of Revenue . .	795,408	835,700	880,637	992,126

#### EXPENDITURE

The following table shows both the main heads of recurrent expenditure, grouped in accordance with the existing Ministries, and percentages which each item bears to the true local expenditure of the colony:

	1959 Actual	Per cent- age	1960 Actual	Per cent- age
	\$		\$	
Administration . . . . .	824,388	18.5	893,373	19.0
Legal . . . . .	77,485	1.7	83,771	1.8
Finance . . . . .	651,778	14.6	751,368	16.0
Agriculture and Labour . . .	315,748	7.1	296,041	6.3
Communications and Works .	1,037,142	23.2	1,075,085	22.9
Social Services . . . . .	1,557,735	34.9	1,592,836	34.0
Total . . . . .	4,464,276	100.0	4,692,474	100.0

	<i>1961 Actual</i>	<i>Per cent- age</i>	<i>1962 Actual</i>	<i>Per cent- age</i>
Administration . . .	\$ 985,684	17.2	\$ 654,755	12.5
Legal .. . .	98,381	1.7	96,116	1.8
Finance . . . .	900,894	15.7	1,041,023	19.9
Agriculture and Labour . .	347,564	6.1	334,682	6.4
Communications and Works . .	1,291,882	22.5	1,077,821	20.6
Social Services . . .	2,111,945	36.8	2,025,921	38.8
Total . .	5,736,350	100.0	5,230,318	100.0

### DEVELOPMENT

The Development Plan for 1960/66 envisaged a total expenditure of \$5,160,000 to be financed from Colonial Development and Welfare funds, general revenue and loans raised.

The following loans have been raised:

\$600,000 for the new automatic telephone project; and  
\$1.31 M to finance general development.

Further loans to be raised by the end of 1965 are:

- (a) for the extension of the automatic telephone to country districts, Nevis and Anguilla; and
- (b) for the building of a new hospital.

Included among the schemes which are expected to promote economic development are: agricultural expansion; irrigation of lands to increase production; deep water harbour; the development of South East St. Kitts for tourism; the development of Pond Pasture and Bird Rock areas for housing and light industries; and the improvement of internal communication. Provision has also been made to increase the number of school places and for the extension and improvement of social amenities.

### PUBLIC DEBT

The colony's Public Debt at 31st December for each of the four years was as follows:

1959	. . . . .	\$1,583,769
1960	. . . . .	\$1,582,513
1961	. . . . .	\$1,774,080
1962	. . . . .	\$2,453,893

## TAXATION

*Customs Duties*

The most significant changes affecting the rates of customs duties during the period under review were the increases on alcoholic beverages such as beer, ale, stout and porter, the rates being raised from 67 cents per gallon Preferential and 90 cents per gallon General to \$1.45 and \$1.68 per gallon respectively, and also on brandy, whisky and gin which were raised from \$9.00 per gallon Preferential and \$10.25 per gallon General to \$11.00 per gallon Preferential and \$12.25 per gallon General. The rate of duty payable on the majority of the goods imported is 10 per cent *ad valorem* Preferential and 15 per cent *ad valorem* General, with a surtax of 12½ per cent on the amount of such duty. The duty payable on motor cars, motor cycles and other motor vehicles was at the rate of 20 per cent *ad valorem* Preferential and 40 per cent *ad valorem* General.

Export duty is levied on certain commodities when exported from the colony, the main items being:

	<i>Rate</i>
Cotton, Clean, Grown in St. Kitts . . . . .	per lb. 8 cents.
Cotton, Clean, Grown in Nevis and Anguilla . . . . .	per lb. 6 cents.
Salt, Coarse . . . . .	per barrel of 300 lb. 12 cents
Salt, Fine . . . . .	per barrel of 300 lb. 24 cents
Sugar, Grey Crystals . . . . .	per ton \$8.58

Exemption of relief from taxation is provided for, subject to certain conditions, under the Hotels Aid Ordinance and the Pioneer Industries Ordinance.

*Land Tax*

Land tax is payable as follows:

On all cultivated land in the island of St. Christopher at the rate per annum of \$4 per acre; on all uncultivated land in the island of St. Christopher at the rate per annum of \$1.00 per acre; on all cultivated or uncultivated land in either of the islands of Nevis or Anguilla at the rate per annum of \$1.00 per acre.

*House Tax*

House tax is payable as follows:

On every house lot in either of the islands of St. Christopher or Nevis of and above the annual gross rental value of \$48.00 at the rate per annum of 5 per cent on the annual gross rental value; on every house lot in the island of Anguilla of and above the annual gross rental value of \$57.60 at the rate per annum of 5 per cent on the annual gross rental value.

**Income Tax**

Income Tax is charged under the St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla Ordinance No. 17 of 1960 as amended. It is based upon the income of the year preceding that in which the tax is actually charged.

Residents are assessed on income accruing in, derived from or received in the colony, and non-residents on income accruing in, or derived from the colony, whether received in the colony or not.

The following personal allowances are granted:

1.—An amount equal to one-tenth of the earned income, i.e. income derived from a trade, profession, business, from employment, or from agriculture, provided that the individual is actively engaged in the procuring of income from that source. This relief is subject to a maximum of \$720.

2.—An individual who is resident in the colony or who is a British subject is allowed a deduction of \$1,000.

3.—A further allowance of \$600 is given to a married man whose wife was living with or maintained by him during the year of account.

4.—There is allowed in respect of each child under the age of 13 who attended some school or other educational establishment during the year of account and in respect of each child under the age of 16 who did not attend such school, etc., an amount of \$300. In respect of each child over the age of 13 and under 25 who attended some school or other educational establishment within the colony, an allowance of \$360. In respect of each child over the age of 13 and under 25 who attended some school or other educational establishment outside the colony an allowance of \$720.

5.—A total relief of \$120 is given for any dependent relative who is unable through old age or infirmity to maintain himself, and for the mother of an individual, or his wife whether she is able to work or not.

Provided that if more than one individual contributes to the support of the individual, the total relief is divided proportionately between them.

6.—Any amount paid by an individual to an approved Pension Scheme or Superannuation Fund is allowed as a deduction before granting relief under head 1 above.

The total amount of premiums paid to an insurance company in respect of the life of an individual, or that of his wife, is allowed as a deduction provided this amount does not exceed one-sixth of the assessable income.

*Rates of Tax*

1.—The tax due from any individual who is resident or a British subject is as follows:

On the first	\$480 of chargeable income	at 2½%	=	\$12
„ next	\$480 viz from \$481 to \$960 at 5%	=	\$24	
„ „	\$480 " " \$961 to \$1,440 at 7½%	=	\$36	
„ „	\$480 " " \$1,441 to \$1,920 at 10%	=	\$48	
„ „	\$480 " " \$1,921 to \$2,400 at 12½%	=	\$60	
„ „	\$480 " " \$2,401 to \$2,880 at 15%	=	\$72	
„ „	\$960 " " \$2,881 to \$3,840 at 20%	=	\$192	
„ „	\$1,440 " " \$3,841 to \$5,280 at 25%	=	\$360	
„ „	\$1,920 " " \$5,281 to \$7,200 at 35%	=	\$672	
„ „	\$2,400 " " \$7,201 to \$9,600 at 45%	=	\$1,080	
„ „	\$2,400 " " \$9,601 to \$12,000 at 50%	=	\$1,200	
„ „	\$2,400 " " \$12,001 to \$14,400 at 60%	=	\$1,440	
„ „	\$2,400 " " \$14,401 to \$16,800 at 65%	=	\$1,560	
Beyond „	\$2,400 " " \$16,801 to \$19,200 at 70%	=	\$1,680	
		at 75%		

2.—The rate of tax upon the chargeable income of a company or any body of persons or any individual to whom paragraph 1 above does not apply is 40 per cent.

Assessments made for the years 1958 (based upon the income of the year 1957), 1959 (based upon the income of the year 1958), 1960 (based upon the income of the year 1959), 1961 (based upon the income of the year 1960) and 1962 (based upon the income of the year 1961) and the incidence of tax on individuals, at varying rates of income, and on companies are shown in the following table:

Group	1958		1959	
	Number	Tax	Number	Tax
\$    \$		\$ c.		\$ c.
1— 480	.	.	.	.
481— 960	.	.	.	.
961— 1,440	.	.	537	841.53
1,441— 1,920	.	.	288	1,813.80
1,921— 2,400	.	.	189	2,864.64
2,401— 2,880	.	.	124	2,854.13
2,881— 3,840	.	.	147	5,630.76
3,841— 5,280	.	.	135	12,801.12
5,281— 7,200	.	.	81	25,185.93
7,201— 9,600	.	.	48	36,153.83
9,601—12,000	.	.	15	27,006.48
12,001—14,400	.	.	10	21,762.55
14,401—16,800	.	.	3	3,021.29
16,801—19,200	.	.	9	43,999.51
Beyond 19,200	.	.	16	171,032.19
Companies	.	.	36	962,546.05

1958 and 1959—Income is Gross Income before allowances.

Group	1960		1961		
	Number	Tax	Number	Tax	
\$      \$		\$ c.		\$ c.	
1— 480	. . . . .	548	2,958.64	491	2,758.86
481— 960	. . . . .	243	7,237.29	243	6,535.74
961— 1,440	. . . . .	150	8,185.27	157	8,340.68
1,441— 1,920	. . . . .	101	10,222.94	117	10,346.02
1,921— 2,400	. . . . .	63	10,380.46	60	8,537.39
2,401— 2,880	. . . . .	37	8,320.35	49	11,249.40
2,881— 3,840	. . . . .	40	11,788.28	75	24,604.35
3,841— 5,280	. . . . .	53	31,361.40	55	33,891.96
5,281— 7,200	. . . . .	26	27,575.03	25	23,592.62
7,201— 9,600	. . . . .	18	31,377.88	22	42,184.32
9,601—12,000	. . . . .	6	17,011.54	4	9,145.60
12,001—14,400	. . . . .	3	11,936.24	4	10,619.40
14,401—16,800	. . . . .	9	38,460.79	3	13,382.55
16,801—19,200	. . . . .	4	12,122.97	4	15,928.06
Beyond 19,200	. . . . .	11	179,489.70	10	119,393.74
Companies	. . . . .	35	754,328.93	37	779,399.29

1960 and 1961—Income is Chargeable Income i.e. after allowances.

Group	1962		
	Number	Tax	
\$      \$		\$ c.	
1— 2,000	. . . . .	620	7,847.83
2,001— 3,000	. . . . .	291	12,603.21
3,001— 4,000	. . . . .	217	24,190.02
4,001— 5,000	. . . . .	135	21,873.43
5,001— 6,000	. . . . .	97	24,523.73
6,001— 7,000	. . . . .	53	18,734.46
7,001— 8,000	. . . . .	51	33,452.09
8,001— 9,000	. . . . .	23	19,456.38
9,001—10,000	. . . . .	24	27,235.72
10,001—11,000	. . . . .	16	23,156.53
11,001—12,000	. . . . .	8	12,314.98
12,001—13,000	. . . . .	6	8,654.61
13,001—14,000	. . . . .	7	11,882.07
14,001—15,000	. . . . .	4	6,069.15
15,001—16,000	. . . . .	2	6,498.62
16,001—17,000	. . . . .	1	3,400.15
17,001—18,000	. . . . .	5	26,383.69
18,001—19,000	. . . . .	1	1,930.50
19,001—20,000	. . . . .	2	14,136.71
Above 20,000	. . . . .	16	163,737.39
Companies	. . . . .	41	910,217.82

## *Chapter 4: Currency and Banking*

THE Currency Act No. 4 of 1950, was designed to complement an agreement between the British colonies in the Eastern Caribbean to provide for a uniform currency, and a Board of Commissioners of Currency was constituted by the appointment by the Secretary of State of five Commissioners, one each from Barbados, British Guiana, the Leeward Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and the Windward Islands.

Notes of the British Caribbean Currency Board (\$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$100) and coin are legal tender throughout the colony. The notes in use are predominantly those of the British Caribbean Currency Board. The dollar system of accounting is used by the Government, the banks and commercial houses.

The rate of exchange is \$4.80 B.W.I. to £1 sterling.

Barclays Bank D.C.O. and the Royal Bank of Canada each operate a branch in St. Kitts. The former also has had agency representation in Nevis from 2nd July 1958. A co-operative bank in Nevis was opened in 1955 as the Nevis Co-operative Bank; the St. Kitts Industrial Bank Ltd. was incorporated in St. Kitts in 1958. These latter two banks are small private local enterprises.

The value of British Caribbean currency notes and coin in circulation on 31st December 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1962 was:

	<i>British Caribbean Currency Notes</i>	<i>British Caribbean Currency Coin</i>
1959 . .	\$1,589,600	\$123,925
1960 . .	\$1,589,600	\$128,625
1961 . .	\$1,179,600	\$139,575
1962 . .	\$789,600	\$141,125

The commercial banks T.T. rates for buying and selling at 31st December 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1962 were:

	<i>Buying</i>			
	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
Sterling . . .	477.30	477.30	478.20	478.20
U.S. . . .	70.6%	70.3%	70.3%	70.6%
Canadian . . .	79.3%	71.0%	63.2%	58.3%
Curaçao Guilders . .	86 cents	86 cents	86 cents	86 cents

	<i>Notes</i>				
	<i>U.S.</i>	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
Canadian . . .	69.1%	68.3%	68.8%	69.1%	69.1%
Canadian . . .	77.8%	69.5%	61.7%	56.8%	56.8%

	<i>Selling</i>			
	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
Sterling . . .	482.70	482.70	481.20	481.20
U.S. . . .	72.6%	72.3%	71.8%	72.0%
Canadian . . .	81.4%	73.1%	64.6%	59.7%
Curaçao Guilders . .	89 cents	89 cents	89 cents	90 cents

	<i>Notes</i>			
	<i>U.S.</i>	<i>Canadian</i>	<i>72.6%</i>	<i>72.3%</i>
			72.6%	72.3%
			81.4%	73.1%

A Government Savings Bank is established in all three islands of the colony under the management of the Accountant General. Amount on deposit in the Government Savings Bank on 31st December 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1962 was:

1959 . . . . .	\$1,109,617
1960 . . . . .	\$1,084,263
1961 . . . . .	\$1,159,890
1962 . . . . .	\$1,200,985

The Savings Bank (Amendment) Ordinance No. 10 of 1957 raised the proportion of the deposits which may be invested in securities of the Government of the colony from one-third to one-half.

### *Chapter 5: Commerce*

	\$000			
	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
Imports . . . .	12,093	12,646	12,360	12,000
Exports . . . .	9,578	10,147	9,830	8,500

*Principal Items Imported in 1959-1962*

Commodity	Unit	Quantity				Value \$000			
		1959	1960	1961	1962	1959	1960	1961	1962
Flour	lb.	8,466,500	8,236,800	7,461,300	7,552,000	699	645	641	635
Fish (all kinds)	lb.	1,008,603	1,056,564	1,091,420	989,729	371	394	400	386
Grain (all kinds)	lb.	3,317,774	2,967,086	2,505,905	2,701,708	377	348	330	349
Sugar	lb.	813,099	434,118	953,481	789,600	89	47	97	119
Timber	ft.	1,504,211	1,846,992	1,698,061	1,586,750	421	569	514	489
Butter and Cheese	lb.	155,299	178,757	181,079	190,701	119	132	135	132
Boots and shoes	pr.	107,846	119,189	111,288	111,390	261	283	285	286
Cotton and Rayon piece goods	yd.	856,374	790,931	739,502	740,760	417	416	443	420
Apparel	gal.	1,397,938	1,431,242	1,578,147	1,607,221	258	353	443	389
Oils (non-edible)	lb.	878,173	861,230	958,189	1,008,642	412	420	442	440
Meat (all kinds)	.	.	.	.	.	469	496	564	569

*Principal Items Exported in 1959-1962*

Commodity	Unit	Quantity				Value \$000			
		1959	1960	1961	1962	1959	1960	1961	1962
Sugar	ton	43,471	48,648	44,734	40,540	8,141	9,338	8,992	7,678
Molasses	gal.	2,038,414	1,342,666	1,752,411	2,204,727	243	86	153	257
Cotton Lint	lb.	574,198	56,567	187,674	161,182	564	40	192	153
Salt	cwt.	41,079	3,112	10,838	8,821	53	5	15	12
Copra	lb.	333,329	127,517	—	99,336	39	18	—	15

## Chapter 6: Production

### LAND UTILISATION AND TENURE

	<i>Acres</i>
Arable land . . . . .	28,000
Land for growing tree-crops, vines or shrubs . . . . .	9,000
Permanent meadow and pasture . . . . .	6,000
Wood or forest land . . . . .	18,000
All other lands . . . . .	35,000
Total . . . . .	96,000

There is no legislation in the colony which deals with soil conservation and the control of cultivation on steeply sloping lands. Contour cultivation to check soil erosion is now general practice on estates in St. Kitts. Government land settlements in St. Kitts and Nevis are cultivated on the contour and have been bunded with *khus khus* grass at 6 feet to 10 feet vertical intervals, and where necessary, storm drains on the contour have been provided.

The upper areas of the mountain slopes in St. Kitts and Nevis are protected under the Forestry Ordinances of 1903 and 1928. The powers of control under these Ordinances are inadequate for this purpose. Land in the colony is owned as follows:

<i>Owned by</i>	<i>Arable land</i>	<i>Permanent meadow and pasture</i>	<i>Forest land</i>
Indigenous inhabitants . . . . .	(acres) 18,000	(acres) 3,000	(acres) 13,000
Non-Indigenous inhabitants . . . . .	7,500	2,000	2,000
Government . . . . .	2,700	1,100	3,000

Most of the land in the colony is held freehold in units ranging from 100 to 600 acres. In St. Kitts the pattern is that basically all privately-owned units are cultivated as estates although the upper lands are frequently allocated to peasants and estate workers on a monthly basis. The plots are usually rented free in the case of estate workers or for others the metayer system is used, the estate taking one-third of the production.

The settlers on the three Government land settlements (total area 900 acres) hold their land on short-term leases. All are based on sugar cane cultivation. In Nevis the pattern differs in that only five

privately-owned estates are cultivated as units. The remainder are rented to small farmers usually on an annual basis. The pattern in Anguilla is similar to that of Nevis, except that the only large holdings operated as units are used for sheep and cattle raising.

Under the provisions of the Agricultural Small Holding Act, contracts can be arranged between the owners of land and cultivators, and the provisions of the Act provide adequate security of tenure for peasants. The Act does not compel either party to enter into the contract.

In Nevis the estates of Cades Bay and Potwork were originally purchased with a view to setting up communal or profit sharing farms, as a more efficient form of land occupation than small holdings. Examination of the prospects of success under present-day conditions indicate that they are likely to be remote. The estates are therefore being devoted to experimental work with standard crops and new crops and building up seed supplies for distribution to farmers.

Government owns some 4,600 acres of land in Nevis of which 3,500 acres are suitable for arable cultivation and for pasture. Of this area 1,800 acres are occupied by small farmers and 650 acres are settled in four-acre lots on a lease purchase system started in 1939. The remainder is occupied on annual leases for areas of 1-4 acres per farm. An attempt to give farmers a long lease-hold of unit areas of eight acres plus provision for cattle grazing is to be made. If successful it will be extended to other areas.

Two estates owned by Government in Nevis and three in Anguilla have been settled on a lease purchase system. All these estates were purchased and sub-divided prior to the commencement of the lease purchase system in 1939.

#### AGRICULTURE

The general pattern of agriculture in the three islands is described in the previous section and experiments on alternative crops are continually being carried out.

A series of trials with groundnuts is being conducted in Nevis in an effort to produce them economically at world market price.

*Sugar:* Crop years 1958/59, 1959/60, 1960/61 and 1961/62, (harvested in 1959, 1960, 1961 and 1962) produced the following:

	1959	1960	1961	1962
<b>St. Kitts</b>				
Total acreage under sugar (acres)	15,672	15,827	15,650	15,449
Acreage harvested (acres)	13,173	13,827	12,312	12,008
Total cane ground (tons)	415,385	437,594	396,515	412,967
Total sugar produced 96° grey crystals (tons)	46,790	50,179	46,957	43,967
Average yield of cane per acre (tons)	31.10	32.94	31.83	34.39
Vacuumpan molasses (gals.)	2,036,336	2,087,510	1,984,957	1,821,489

<b>Nevis</b>				
Total approximate acreage under sugar cane (acres)	500	525	430	430
Acreage harvested (acres)	432	458	285	426
Total cane produced (tons)	5,990	4,887	5,575	4,848
Yield of cane per acre (tons)	13.86	10.67	16.93	11.40
Cane purchased by Government for ship- ment to St. Kitts (tons)	5,990	4,887	4,825	4,848
Cane received at Factory St. Kitts (tons)	5,640	4,644	4,611	4,717

There is wide variation in average yields between the estates. There is associated difference in ecology. The reaping period for both the 1961 and 1962 crops was unduly prolonged owing to labour difficulties. Trials with new varieties and revised systems of fertilising are continuous. There is considerable improvement in the use of chemicals which are being used extensively to control weeds.

The sugar cane grown by peasants in St. Kitts is chiefly on Government land settlement estates. The following is the acreage cultivated by peasants:

1959	1960	1961	1962
1,082	847	868	739

The yield of sugar per acre from estates and peasants is shown below:

<i>Yield of sugar per acre</i>	(tons)			
	1959	1960	1961	1962
Estates . . . . .	3.50	3.78	3.77	3.57
Peasants . . . . .	2.64	3.00	2.00	1.90

Owing to shipping difficulties it was not possible to reap the whole sugar crop in Nevis. In addition, the high cost of shipping cane to St. Kitts has contributed to lack of interest in planting more cane. The standard of cultivation is also on the decline.

*Sea Island Cotton.* In Nevis and Anguilla the cotton crop is planted in September and reaped from February to April of the following year.

In St. Kitts, due to the prolonged cane reaping season, it was not possible to plant cotton before September and October. This late planting has seriously affected the yield.

There was a slight increase in the acreage planted in St. Kitts in the 1961/62 season; if it had been possible to plant in August, a large acreage would have been planted.

	1959	1960	1961	1962
<i>St. Kitts</i>				
Acreage planted . . . . .	635	127	163	281
Total production of lint (lb.) . . . . .	196,362	36,518	62,171	67,821
Total production clean lint (lb.) . . . . .	175,244	33,406	57,614	58,764
Yield of clean lint per acre (lb.) . . . . .	276	263	353	209
Percentage of stains . . . . .	10.8	13.3	7.2	13.3
<i>Nevis</i>				
Acreage planted . . . . .	2,146	1,854	988	958
Total production lint (lb.)	388,468	225,274	156,372	107,486
Total production clean lint (lb.) . . . . .	354,642	199,096	130,060	89,382
Yield clean lint per acre (lb.) . . . . .	165	107	131	93
Percentage of stains . . . . .	9.6	11.6	16.8	16.8
<i>Anguilla</i>				
Acreage planted . . . . .	30	17	20	21
Total production lint (lb.)	2,242	1,184	1,482	2,311
Total production clean lint (lb.) . . . . .	2,242	1,184	1,482	2,240
Yield lint per acre (lb.) . . . . .	75	70	74	107
Percentage of stains . . . . .	—	—	—	—

The Nevis 1961/62 cotton crop proved to be the smallest since 1947.

In St. Kitts and Nevis the use of fertilisers is increasing, although much more experimental work on their efficient application is necessary before they are generally adopted. Quality standards remain high and the use of high grade seed general.

In Anguilla percentage of stains was low and peasants kept this for their own use.

*Food crops.* The following are the main food crops grown in the colony: sweet potatoes, yams, cassavas, maize, tannias, dasheen, eddoes, pigeon peas, blackeye peas, bananas, green vegetables, (tomatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, onion, eggplant, beet, lettuce, etc.).

There are no reliable current figures for the area of the crops grown in the islands nor of the total production. Nevis has a higher ratio of food crops for export and helps to supply St. Kitts with food.

Anguilla produces pigeon peas and guinea corn in excess of its own requirements.

There is little doubt that much greater quantities of these crops could be produced and absorbed locally, but much will depend on the development of more economic methods of cultivation supplemented by organised marketing.

### Coconuts

	1959	1960	1961	1962
<i>Nevis</i>				
Area under coconut (ex- cluding scattered trees) (acres) . . . . .	658	685	690	690
Total production of copra (tons) . . . . .	166	140	137	151.8
Exports of copra to Barbados (tons) . . . . .	166	56	—	62.1
Exports of seed coconuts (No.) . . . . .	34,310	10,650	6,600	—

### *Processing*

**Sugar.** All sugar cane in St. Kitts and Nevis is processed at the factory in St. Kitts owned by the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory Ltd., a company registered in Britain. Production figures are included in the table on page 25.

	1959	1960	1961	1962
Tons of cane per ton 96° sugar	31.10	32.94	31.83	34.39

The production of Muscovado sugar in Nevis ceased in 1957.

**Cotton.** There are four ginneries in St. Kitts, all of which are privately owned, but only one of these ginneries operated from 1959 to 1962.

### *Output of the Ginneries, St. Kitts*

<i>Spooners Ginnery</i>	1959	1960	1961	1962
Clean lint (lb.) . . .	175,244	33,406	47,614	58,764
Stains (lb.) . . .	21,118	5,112	4,557	9,057

Output of the Nevis Cotton Ginnery in 1959 to 1962 was as follows:

	<i>Clean Lint</i>		<i>Stains</i>		<i>Seed sold for crushing</i>
	Bales	lb.	Bales	lb.	tons
1959 . . .	709	354,642	48	33,826*	289
1960 . . .	398	199,096	33	26,178*	175
1961 . . .	260	130,060	53	26,312*	113
1962 . . .	179	89,382	32	18,104*	64

\*Includes local sales and amounts returned to growers unbaled. In Nevis all cotton is ginned by the ginnery operated by the Marketing Division of the Department of Agriculture.

In Anguilla there is a single cotton ginnery owned by Messrs. C. Rey and Co. The ginnery has not operated since 1957, and the Anguilla crops were processed at St. Kitts.

The Spooners Cotton Factory operates an oil extraction plant which produces cotton seed oil for local use. The residue of cotton seed cake is sold as meal for feeding to livestock.

Cotton seed purchased by the Spooners Cotton factory amounted to:

	1959		1960	
	Prime seed	2nd quality seed	Prime seed	2nd quality seed
Spooners Cotton Factory (tons) . . .	156	15.6	31.7	4.7
Price per ton Cooking oil . . .	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$25.00
Production (gals) . . .	10,817		839	

	1961		1962	
	Prime seed	2nd quality seed	Prime seed	2nd quality seed
Spooners Cotton Factory (tons) . . .	2,648	4.1	119	8.25
Price per ton . . .	\$47.00	\$23.50	\$55.00	\$27.50
Cooking Oil production (gals) . . .	8,275		4,077	

A vegetable oil processing factory was established in Nevis and commenced operations in 1960. In 1961 it processed the entire local production of copra. Most of the oil produced was consumed locally and the residues of cotton seed cake and copra meal were sold for livestock feed. Some imports of copra were made but overall, the factory suffered from an inadequate supply of raw materials, and in 1962 it closed down, as it was uneconomical to operate.

Copra purchased by the factory was:

Source	1961		1962	
	tons	tons	tons	tons
Nevis . . . . .	137.21		9.09	
St. Kitts : . . . .	.06			
Montserrat . . . .				
St. Lucia . . . .	44.20			
Dominica . . . .	69.84			
Total . . . . .	249.31		9.09	

*Maize.* Small quantities of farmers' maize were ground by the Department in Nevis.

### Marketing

The sugar crop is marketed by the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory Ltd. through its London agents.

In 1959 the factory's quota of sugar for export amounted to 43,442 tons, of which 30,240 tons were sold to the Sugar Board at the negotiated price of £45.2s.0d. per ton c.i.f., including £2.15s.0d. per ton payable to the St. Kitts Government as special funds for price stabilisation and labour welfare. The average price received for the crop was £38.12s.6d. per ton f.o.b. The total price paid by the factory to contractors was \$13.20 per ton. Outside suppliers received \$12.60 per ton. The price of grey crystals sugar for local consumption was controlled at 10 cents per lb. There was no control price for washed sugar. The value of the molasses exported was \$243,467.

In 1960 the factory's quota for sugar for export amounted to 48,648 tons, of which 31,051 tons were sold to the Sugar Board at the negotiated price of £44. 8s. 10d. per ton c.i.f., including £2. 15s. 0d. per ton payable to the St. Kitts Government of the special funds referred to above. The remainder of the crop, after allowing for local sales, was sold on the open market and averaged about £10. 6s. 0d. per ton less than the negotiated price. The average price received for the crop was £37. 8s. 10d. per ton f.o.b.

In 1961 the factory exported 42,522 tons of which 30,916 tons were sold to the Sugar Board at negotiated price of £45. 2s. 0d., including £2. 15s. 0d. per ton payable to the St. Kitts Government in respect of the special funds mentioned above. The remainder of the crop, after allowing for local sales, was sold on the open market and realised an average price of £12. 15s. 0d. per ton less than the negotiated price. The average price received for the crop was £37. 19s. 3d. per ton f.o.b.

In 1962 the factory exported 38,482 tons of which 30,804 tons were sold to the Sugar Board at the negotiated price of £45. 15s. 3d. per ton c.i.f., including £2. 15s. 0d. per ton payable to the St. Kitts Government in respect of the special funds referred to above. The remainder of the crop, after allowing for local sales, was sold on the open market and was estimated to realise an average price of about £16. 10s. 6d. per ton less than the negotiated price. The average price received for the crops was \$39. 9s. 8d. per ton f.o.b. The total price paid by the factory for cane was \$11.67 per ton. Outside suppliers received \$11.04 per ton. The value of the molasses exported was \$238,992.

In Nevis purchases of sugar cane and transport arrangements are made by the Marketing Section of the Department of Agriculture. A marketing commission of 4 per cent was collected on cotton sales and 1 per cent on proceeds from canes is charged by Government.

Purchases and prices of the Nevis cotton crops from 1959 to 1962 were as shown in the following table:

	<i>Clean seed cotton purchased by Marketing Dept.</i>	<i>Price paid to growers</i>	<i>Stains</i>	<i>Price paid to growers</i>
1959 . .	lb. 1,060,985	cents 27.5	lb. 66,644	cents 9.0
1960 . .	594,005	25.0	55,376	11.0
1961 . .	375,930	30.0	18,587	10.0
1962 . .	280,834	28.0	44,890	unsold

The cotton crop in St. Kitts is marketed as baled lint through local agents.

The crops were sold to spinners in Britain at the following prices per lb. f.o.b. St. Kitts. These prices are for clean lint, Grade I.

1959 = \$1.07 per lb. 1960 = 92 cents per lb. 1961 = \$1.04 per lb.;  
1962 = \$1.13 per lb.

### *Department of Agriculture and Fisheries*

The principal members of the staff of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries at 30th December 1962 comprised:

Acting Director of Agriculture.

#### *St. Kitts Division*

Agricultural Superintendent  
 (who also acts as Director of Agriculture)  
 One Agricultural Assistant (vacant)  
 One Food Production Officer  
 One Senior Agricultural Assistant  
 Two Agricultural Assistants  
 One Cotton Inspector  
 Manager, Livestock and Dairy Farm  
 Manager, Marketing Depot  
 Foreman, Experimental Station  
 Fisheries Officer

#### *Nevis Division*

Agricultural Officer  
 Agricultural Engineer  
 Field Experiment Officer  
 Senior Extension Officer  
 Marketing Officer  
 Assistant Cotton Officer  
 Marketing Assistants  
 Agricultural Assistants  
 Land Officer  
 Cotton Inspector  
 Foreman, Experimental Station

#### *Anguilla Division*

Agricultural Officer  
 One Agricultural Assistant  
 Foreman, Agricultural Station

**The Agricultural policy of the colony is:**

- (1) The conservation of soil, maintenance and improvement of soil fertility.
- (2) The control of pests and disease of crops.
- (3) The improvement of small farmer agriculture in the colony.
- (4) The development of livestock industries in St. Kitts–Nevis and Anguilla.
- (5) The improvement of crop yields by the introduction of new and better varieties of crop plants and by the improvement of manurial and cultivation practices.
- (6) The encouragement of the production of local foodcrops.

***Efforts to Improve Production***

**Sugar Cane.** In 1962 all work in connection with sugar cane experiments was taken over by the Research Department of the St. Kitts Sugar Association Ltd. who also assumed responsibility for the planting and multiplication of new cane varieties forwarded for trial each year by the British West Indies Central Sugar Cane Breeding Station in Barbados.

Prior to this date the field work in connection with these experiments was carried out by an officer of the Agricultural Department and the new cane varieties were planted at the Government Experimental Station where they were multiplied for planting observation plots and nurseries on estates.

***Cotton***

Multiplication plots are planted each year in St. Kitts and Nevis with pedigree seed which is obtained from the cotton station in Montserrat for maintaining the purity of the seed which is used for planting the commercial crops in the two islands. Fertilisers and cultivation experiments are carried out in both islands.

**Food Crops.** In St. Kitts an Agricultural Assistant is employed on advisory and demonstration work among the peasants who grow food crops on the upper lands of the estates.

For the first time systematic field experiment work on crops other than cotton has been started in Nevis. Furthermore, variety cultivation trials have been started on all the principal crops and on new crops which show promise. Priority has been given to the work on groundnuts to supply the local processing plant. Field tomatoes and castor have also received special attention.

Agricultural extension work in the colony has been limited owing to the lack of trained personnel on the staff of the Department. Within recent years, however, officers have returned after completing a course of training at the Eastern Caribbean Farm Institute and other officers are in training. An extension Service under a Senior Agricultural Extension Officer has been organised in Nevis.

Limited credit facilities are provided by Government for farmers in St. Kitts and Nevis to enable them to obtain their requirements of artificial manures, insecticides, mechanical cultivation and agricultural tools. The services, however, apply only to those farmers who grow crops marketed by the Department. These facilities have now been extended to enable peasants in Anguilla to obtain supplies of fencing wire for their paddocks on easy terms.

#### ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

Statistics of livestock according to the census of 1946 are set out in the following table:

	<i>Cattle</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Mules</i>	<i>Donkeys</i>	<i>Swine</i>	<i>Sheep</i>	<i>Goats</i>	<i>Poultry</i>
St. Kitts .	3,175	301	373	613	1,003	670	392	5,518
Nevis .	2,406	371	130	1,048	1,829	3,548	2,251	9,886
Anguilla .	813	10	2	118	823	2,752	1,563	4,096
Total .	6,394	682	505	1,779	3,655	6,970	4,206	19,500

The Department has a livestock (dairy) station at Bayfords. The main objectives are to provide suitable dairy type breeding stock for the colony and to investigate and demonstrate methods of improving and maintaining pastures. A number of bulls, some dairy and some beef type, are maintained at centres around the island.

In Nevis, the majority of cattle and sheep are owned by small farmers. The Department operates a livestock station at Maddens which concentrates on the Senepol (or St. Croix) breed. It is the counterpart for beef animals at Bayfords in St. Kitts. Beef type bulls are maintained as stud at various centres.

During this period 200 acres were cleared and planted with Pangola grass at Indian Castle estate where a herd of pure-bred Zebu will be kept as well as a commercial herd of Senepol.

Communal pastures based on pangola grass, with paddocks for control grazing in which farmers place their livestock on payment of a fee, have been established in Nevis and are proving very successful.

***Anguilla***

The number of livestock exported in the years 1959 to 1962 was:

	1959	1960	1961	1962
Cattle . . . . .	86	56	26	42
Sheep . . . . .	446	278	204	312
Goats . . . . .	283	231	146	199
Pigs . . . . .	469	414	322	313

Recorded exports were entirely to St. Martin and St. Bartholomew.

***Veterinary Services***

The Veterinary Service is a division of the Agricultural Department and consists of a Veterinary Officer and one assistant. The function of this service is to maintain the animal health of the colony. A laboratory service is available and facilities for clinical work. Work during 1960 and 1961 was concerned with the above service and included vaccination projects (Pasteurellosis, Anthrax, etc.) T.B. testing, parasite control.

**FORESTRY**

There is no separate forestry department in the colony. The forest areas in St. Kitts and Nevis are regarded entirely as protective forests and very little exploitation is allowed. In St. Kitts there is a Forestry Board which controls the work of protecting the forest areas. The Government employs a Forest Guard and three forest rangers whose work is supervised by an Agricultural Assistant. There is also a Forestry Board in Nevis whose chairman is the Agricultural Officer. Protection of the forest areas is carried out by a Forest Guard and three forest rangers.

**FISHERIES**

During 1962 an F.A.O. Master fisherman was appointed, with the main aim of carrying out exploratory work. This officer arrived in June and for most of the remaining time of that year was taken up in getting the necessary fishing gear together and fitting out a boat for his use.

Two Government-owned fishing boats are available for leasing to fishermen to undertake commercial fishing.

**MINING**

The ownership of mineral rights is vested in the Crown. No mining was carried out in the colony during the period under review.

**CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

The Nevis Co-operative Bank was started in 1955. It is now flourishing and making a useful contribution to agricultural workers in Nevis.

A number of Credit Unions are in operation in St. Kitts, one in Nevis and two in Anguilla. A Co-operatives Societies Ordinance has been passed but not yet proclaimed.

## *Chapter 7: Social Services*

**EDUCATION***Administration*

The Minister of Social Services is responsible for the direction and development of education and his chief adviser is the Chief Education Officer who is the Head of the Education Department.

The other executive officers are:

- one Inspector of Schools; (Primary and Senior)
- one Inspector of Schools; (Teacher-Training)
- one Assistant Inspector of Schools; (Home Economics)
- one Assistant Inspector of Schools; (Nevis).

The Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors carry out routine visits to primary and senior schools and give guidance and advice.

*School Buildings and Equipment*

Ten of the Government primary and senior schools are housed in buildings which are the property of Government. The remaining school buildings are rented. Many of the buildings are unsuitable and most of them are over-crowded.

Though there has been marked improvement in the equipment supplied to schools, financial stringency imposes limitations which leave much to be desired.

The colony's five-year Development Plan for the period 1960-65 provides for a school-building programme designed to relieve the worse cases of over-crowding in the primary schools and the building of new senior schools.

### *Primary Education*

Free primary education is statutory for all children between the ages of 5 and 13 and provision is made for pupils to stay on till the age of 16 in Senior Schools or in senior departments of all-age primary schools. There are still the handicaps of (a) inadequate and unsuitable accommodation; (b) an insufficient number of trained and qualified teachers; and (c) the provision of greater facilities for training pupils in practical subjects.

Within the period under review, new syllabuses for the infant school, the primary school, the senior school were issued to the schools and progress has been made in school reorganisation and in methods of teaching.

The play centre in Basseterre is maintained from Government funds to the amount of \$1,850. Grants-in-aid to the amount of \$996 annually are paid to the pre-primary schools.

### *Secondary Education*

The five secondary schools in the territory are managed by their respective principals. Matters of policy and staffing are referred to the Chief Education Officer.

Secondary education is available to children between the ages of 11 and 19 who pass an entrance examination or a scholarship examination. Scholarship winners attend these schools free of charge. The maximum fee at any government secondary school is \$50.40 per annum. There are now 65 scholarships to secondary schools.

In St. Kitts there are separate schools for boys and girls and a mixed Roman Catholic School. In Nevis and Anguilla there are mixed schools. Courses in the secondary schools now lead to the General Certificate of Education Examination at Ordinary level of Cambridge University. At the Boys' Grammar School tuition in the co-educational VIth Form leads to the Advanced level examination and the Leeward Islands Scholarship is awarded on the results of this examination.

Pupils from the other secondary schools in the colony who have passed the G.C.E. (at Ordinary Level) are eligible for admission to the VI Form of the Grammar School to take the course leading to the Advanced level examination.

### *Extra-Curricular Activities*

Clubs continue to function in primary and secondary schools. Their varied activities include literary and debating clubs, nature study clubs, French study clubs, etc. An interesting feature has been

the exchange of visits between secondary school pupils of St. Kitts and Martinique. The pupils themselves play a great part in the management of these clubs and so receive good training in leadership.

### *Home Economics*

The Home Economics programme has been expanding. There are now seven centres in St. Kitts, two in Nevis and one in Anguilla. This subject is taken by girls of the Valley Secondary School at the G.C.E. examination and by girls of the Gingerland Senior School and Sandy Point Senior School at the College of Preceptors Certificate examination.

### *Higher Education*

The colony contributes annually to the cost of the University of the West Indies and government scholarships are provided to enable teachers at secondary schools to read for degrees at this University.

The number of students enrolled in institutions of higher education was:

<i>Year Number</i>	<i>1959</i> 16	<i>1960</i> 32	<i>1961</i> 25	<i>1962</i> 49
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### *Adult Education*

The headquarters of the University of the West Indies Department of Extra-Mural Studies was re-transferred to Antigua in 1962 and a representative was appointed in each of the three islands of the colony.

The Extra-Mural Department continues to sponsor lectures, discussion-groups and special courses.

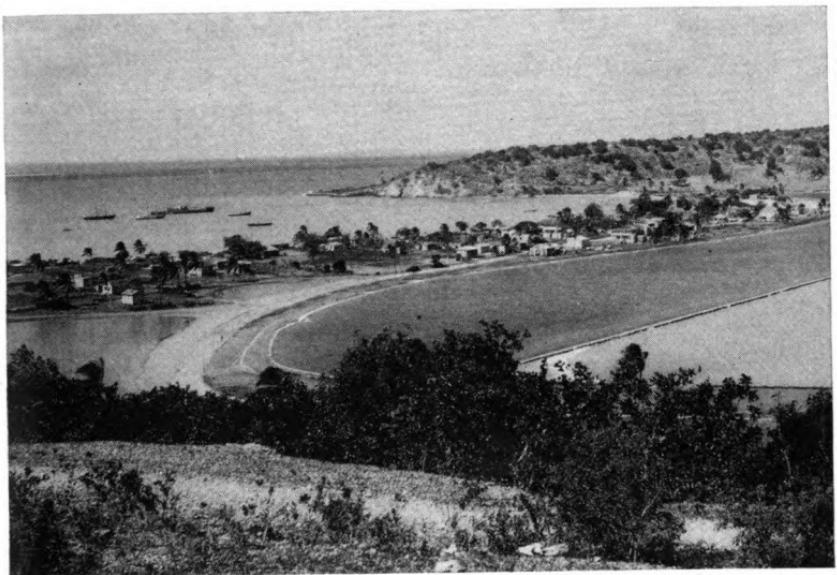
### *Teacher-Training Institutions*

The colony contributes annually to the cost of the Leeward Islands Teachers' Training College in Antigua where its male and female primary school teachers receive training. In addition, a Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme provides for the training of a number of teachers at Erdiston Training College in Barbados.

The numbers trained in Antigua and Barbados were:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Leeward Islands Teachers' Training College</i>	<i>Erdiston</i>
1959	10	5
1960	10	4
1961	14	3
1962	11	3

Within the period under review five teachers received bursaries and pursued studies in Britain.



*The Road, Anguilla*



*Golden Rock Hotel, Nevis*



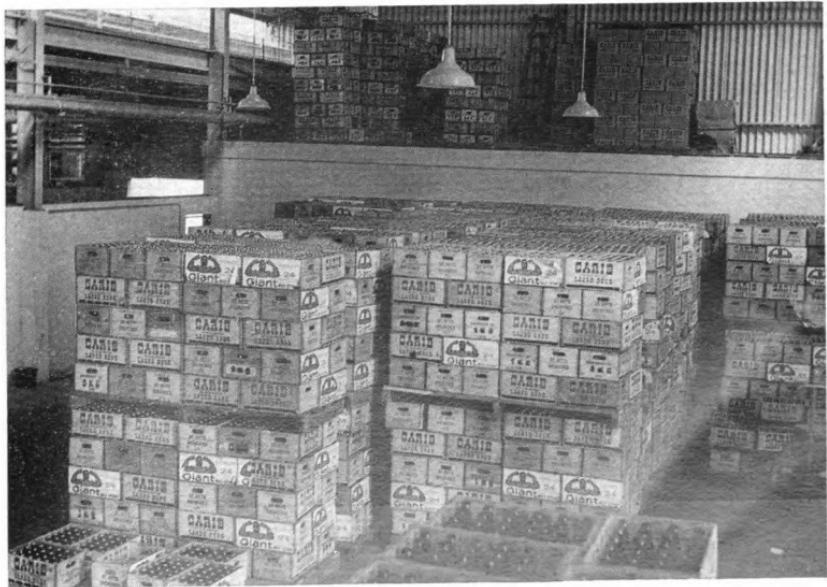
*Frigate Bay Estate*



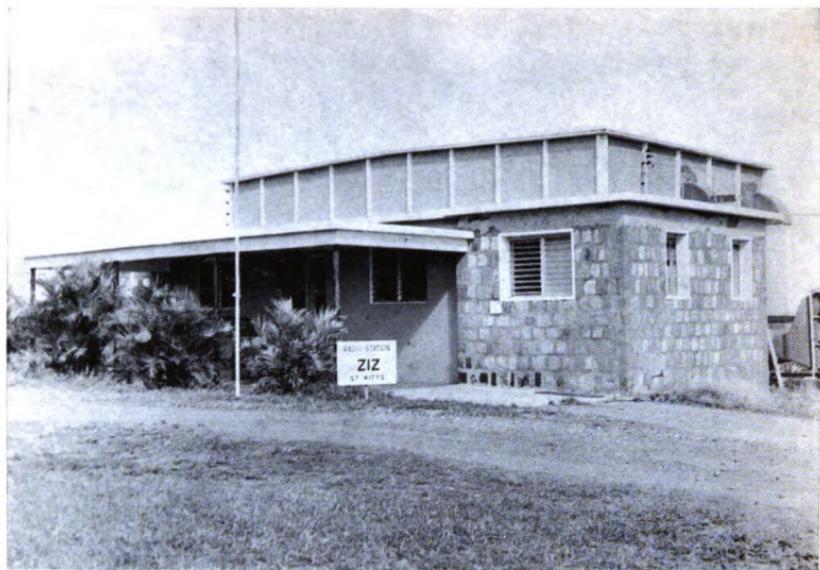
*The Zebu bull grazing on pangola grass at Indian Castle Estate, Nevis,  
which is government owned*



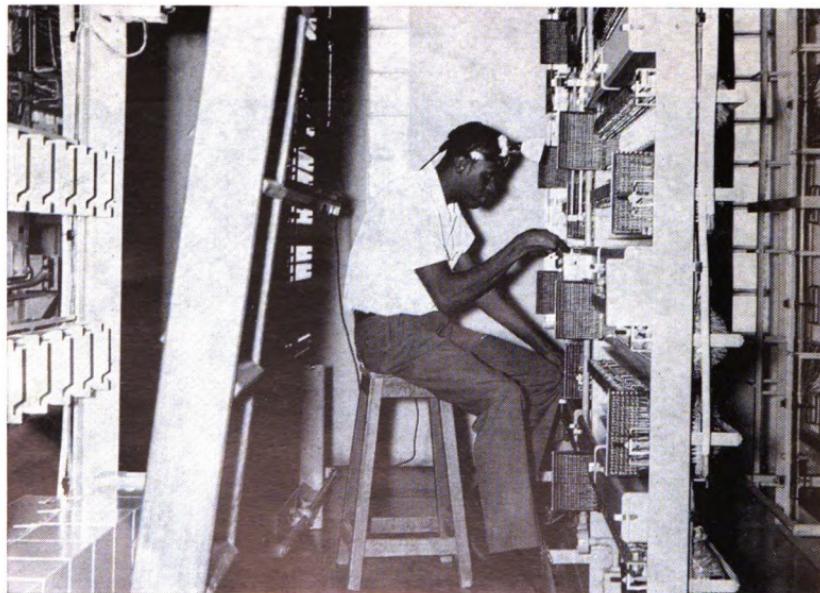
*Broussard mechanical loader*



*Carib Lager Beer at the St. Kitts Brewery Ltd.*



*Radio Station, ZIZ, St. Kitts*



*Part of the equipment at the Automatic Telephone Exchange,  
Basseterre*

***Education Statistics******I.—Government Primary Schools***

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Schools</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Enrolment</i>	<i>Average Attendance</i>
1959 . .	34	337	10,113	8,596
1960 . .	34	364	10,728	9,226
1961 . .	35	441	11,179	9,726
1962 . .	35	401	15,781	13,729

***II.—Government Secondary Schools, St. Kitts***

<i>Year</i>	<i>Grammar School (Boys)</i>			<i>Girls' High School</i>		
	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Average Attendance</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Roll</i>	<i>Average Attendance</i>	<i>Staff</i>
1959 . .	196	188	14	204	198	11
1960 . .	219	208	14	207	197	11
1961 . .	237	230	14	230	224	11
1962 . .	268	263	14	230	223	11

***III.—Number of Schools, 1962***

	<i>Public Schools</i>			<i>Independent Schools (Assisted and Non-assisted)</i>		
	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Mixed</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>	<i>Mixed</i>
Primary Secondary . .	3 1	3 1	29 2	—	—	9 1

***IV.—Funds allocated to Education***

<i>Recurrent expenditure</i>	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
Administration .	\$ 20,751	\$ 23,147	\$ 24,268	\$ 28,758
Primary and Senior .	454,416	474,460	487,677	699,404
Secondary and .				
Technical . .	120,857	127,629	140,518	188,538
Scholarships . .	15,372	10,700	110,325	114,745
Training of Teachers .	20,300	37,625		
Total Education .	631,696	673,561	762,788	1,031,445
Approximate percentage of colony expenditure . .	9%	9.7%	10%	12.5%
Capital Expenditure . .				
New buildings . .	15,398	151,000*	360,000*	735,640*

\*Five Year Development Plan, 1960/5.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

There were no serious outbreaks or epidemics of disease in the territory during the years 1959 to 1962. The commonly occurring diseases of bronchitis, influenza and other respiratory infections were again evident, whilst among children mumps, gastro-enteritis and nutritional deficiency states were fairly prevalent. The main causes of death in children up to the age of five years were gastro-enteritis, broncho-pneumonia and deficiency diseases.

*Vital Statistics*

The following table gives the vital statistics for the territory for the years 1959 to 1962 inclusive:

	1959	1960	1961	1962
Total estimated population . . . .	59,700	59,079	59,196	60,451
Births . . . .	2,512	2,426	2,038	2,112
Deaths . . . .	670	764	711	587
Deaths under 1 year . . . .	174	238	206	129
Infant Mortality per 1000 live births	69.5	98.1	101.5	61.1
Birth Rate per 1000 population	42.4	40.9	34.4	35.3
Illegitimacy birth rate per 1000 live births . . . .	69.8	69.3	66.7	69.5
Death Rate per 1000 population	11.3	13.0	12.0	9.8

*Principal causes of death*

The following table shows the most common causes of death for the years 1959 to 1962 inclusive:

Intermediate List No.	Cause	No. of deaths			
		1959	1960	1961	1962
A80-83	Heart Disease . . . .	116	94	89	98
A128-135	Diseases of Early Infancy . . . .	88	97	106	78
A104	Gastro-enteritis . . . .	79	129	106	39
A70	Apoplexy . . . .	62	54	68	74
A136	Senility . . . .	58	51	36	33
A89-97	Respiratory Diseases . . . .	56	83	76	30
A45-57	Cancer, all forms . . . .	40	40	55	44
A64	Deficiency Diseases . . . .	25	56	50	37
AE138-150	Accidents and Violence . . . .	18	27	15	25
A85	Diseases of the Arteries . . . .	15	—	—	—
A1	Tuberculosis . . . .	—	—	—	10
A84	Hypertension . . . .	—	—	16	—

### *Staffing of Health Services*

Without doubt the most serious problem of the Health services was the doctor shortage in hospitals and districts. Towards the end of the period under review some relief was obtained by the recruitment of doctors from Hong Kong. Paramedical staff were also in short supply.

### *Staff Training*

Nurse training continued at the two main hospitals. As no Sister Tutor or Clinical nurse instructor was available, training programmes were undertaken by the hospital Matrons. Senior staff nurses were sent to Britain for ward sister training, whilst Public Health Nurses and Inspectors were trained at the Public Health Training School in Jamaica. Various other short courses for health personnel were initiated by WHO/PAHO during the period under review.

### *Hospitals*

There are two main general hospitals, the Cunningham in Basseterre, St. Kitts and the Alexandra in Charlestown, Nevis. In addition there are two smaller cottage hospitals: one in Anguilla and one in Sandy Point, St. Kitts. New maternity wards were added to the Alexandra Hospital and to the Pogson Hospital at Sandy Point. Due to staff shortages over the whole period, hospital admissions had to be restricted, particularly in regard to non emergency surgery. Planning for a new hospital to replace the 140-year-old Cunningham Hospital in Basseterre was undertaken during the period under review.

### *Preventive Medicine*

Nineteen Health Centres and clinic outposts, plus five Clinics provide the three islands with a combined service of medical care and preventive medicine. These units are staffed by public health trained nurses and midwives and also where possible with a public health inspector, and they are generally visited by the District Medical Officer of the district in which they lie. Staff quarters are provided wherever possible for the nursing staff in charge. The overall shortage of doctors made regular medical supervision of the clinics difficult during the period under review.

These centres provide mainly for ante- and post-natal care, for child welfare and as centres for home visiting and domiciliary midwifery.

Dental care for children, expectant mothers and labourers over the age of 60 years was provided by one Government Dental Surgeon, and one dental surgeon employed part-time. Talks and articles on dental care were given at clinics and through the local press.

Immunisation programmes are carried out through the clinics and clinic staff are also responsible for the distribution of dried skimmed milk to children of pre-school and school age. This milk is supplied free through the agency of UNICEF, and forms part of an expanded Nutrition Programme which was established in the period under review in order to improve the general nutrition of the population, particularly that of the children.

#### *Health Education*

Programmes for the education of the public in better living conditions and in better nutrition were carried out by clinic staff and the health inspectorate over the whole period. Both talks and press releases were frequently made and use was made of posters in disseminating information.

#### *Mental Health*

Use continued to be made of the Mental Hospital, Antigua, for the hospitalisation of the mentally disordered in need of institutional care. However, many more mentally disordered persons were being treated as outpatients under the care of their relatives and with the formation in 1961 of a voluntary Mental Health Association, a greater interest and understanding of the problem is being evoked among the general population.

#### *Creches and Day Nurseries*

There are several creches and day nurseries throughout St. Kitts, many of which are in need of greater control and supervision. A Children's Home in Basseterre supported by voluntary contributions and a Government grant continued to do very good work.

#### *Family Planning*

Though Government has not participated in any family planning projects, an association was formed voluntarily in St. Kitts in 1962 to advise the population on family planning.

#### *Geriatrics*

There are homes for the aged in Basseterre, Charlestown and Anguilla. These are inspected and supervised by Government

Medical Officers regularly. The home in Basseterre also has four single wards for the reception and temporary observation of mentally disordered persons.

#### *Local Authority Services*

The health inspectorate, through its cleansing department, controls the collection and disposal of garbage from all towns and villages. Disposal is carried out through controlled tipping.

All food handlers were inspected annually and licences issued to food dealers.

Only a limited amount of port health work was carried out over the period, owing to staff shortage.

#### *Mosquito Control*

During the period under review, the W.H.O. *Aedes Aegypti* eradication campaign was brought to a satisfactory conclusion with complete eradication being effected.

A problem is the control of small boats coming from neighbouring islands and carrying *Aedes* with them.

#### *Latrine Construction Programme*

This WHO-UNICEF assisted programme, which aims at providing 100 per cent of homes with private latrines, continued over the period 1959 to 1962, and 2,000 units were provided during this time. The programme continues.

### HOUSING

The Central Housing and Planning Authority, constituted under the Slum Clearance and Housing Ordinance, No. 1 of 1948, is mainly responsible for improvement of housing conditions within the colony. In addition to the Slum Clearance and Housing Ordinance, the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Ordinance, No. 2 of 1948, are also the responsibility of this Authority.

The Authority is comprised of a Chairman and six members. The staff number eleven permanent officers paid from General Revenue and ten non-establishment officers paid from the Labour Welfare Fund, provided under Section 5 of the Sugar Export Cess Ordinance, No. 7 of 1947.

The basic programme of the Authority is as follows:

1. The development of housing sites in urban and rural areas throughout the colony.

2. Financial and technical assistance to manual sugar workers by way of the Aided Self-Help System which provides permanent concrete houses with living room, two bedrooms, kitchen and shower. A loan is granted to the applicant in the form of materials to be used in the building. Organised groups are formed and provide the labour involved in constructing the building which is supervised by a trained Building Foreman.
3. Financial assistance to manual workers by way of loans which enables repairs to be made to existing buildings and so improve housing standards.
4. Construction of prefabricated sectional houses for rental so as to assist families forced to live under undesirable conditions. Sectional wooden houses are constructed in the Authority's workshop and transported to various congested areas for erection. It provides a living room, bedroom, and verandah. These are intended for temporary use only and the rentals are low.
5. Removal and re-siting of buildings from unsuitable areas and provision of concrete precast latrine units to encourage improved sanitary conditions.

During the years 1959 to 1962 the Authority was engaged in several housing developments:

*Cayon Housing Scheme.* This scheme has now been completed and 95 per cent of the lots have been occupied. The construction of 35 Aided Self-Help Houses begun in 1958 was completed in 1960.

*Bird Rock Housing Scheme.* This scheme has now been completed. It provides asphalt surfaced roads, water main with free hydrants and electricity distribution mains. There are 257 lots provided within the 40 acres. Allocation of lots has not been finalised due to some difficulties in obtaining supplies of water and electricity.

*Pond Pasture Town Extension Scheme.* A Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme for the development of Pond Pasture was finally approved in November 1962, but permission was given to commence preliminary work in March 1961.

The area, comprising approximately thirty-six and one quarter acres, has been planned to accommodate mainly residential and industrial building lots.

The distribution of land use is as follows:

	Approx. Acreage
1. Residential flats	4.4
2. House Lots (high density)	10.0
3. Terraced houses	2.5
Total residential land use	16.90
4. Shops and car park	1.80
5. School	1.08
6. Fire station	1.10
7. Industry	5.30
8. Shell extension	0.80
9. Esso Exchange of land	0.90
10. Communal building lots	0.54
11. Playing fields	2.50
12. Industrial area	5.30
	19.32
Total	36.22

The development includes provision of asphalt surfaced roads, water and electricity supplies. A total of 180 residential lots will be provided to relieve congestion in the town of Basseterre.

#### SOCIAL WELFARE

During the period under review there were several changes of staff, a slight reduction in available funds, an increase in the number of persons leaving the territory to seek employment in Britain, and a disastrous hurricane in the island of Anguilla. In spite of these factors, a fair standard of achievement was maintained in social development activities in the three islands of the territory, including visits by persons interested in the social development of the islands.

#### *Administration*

Under the Ministry of Social Services, the Social Welfare Department was responsible for all forms of social development work in the territory. Funds provided by Government for carrying out this work included provision for the remuneration of personnel, including transport, as well as for the usual social services.

The following sums were expended:

Year	\$
1959	91,184
1960	87,078
1961	39,589
1962	90,002
Total	307,853

The Community Development Officer is Head of the Department and is responsible, *inter alia*, for supervision of the Department. In St. Kitts an Assistant Community Development Officer, assisted by one officer, carried out relief and pension payments and investigations and undertook youth and probation and case work. A home demonstration officer (female), who held home improvement classes for young women in rural districts, assisted with female youth and voluntary organizations, undertook family case work and helped with the annual Homes, Families and Gardens Festival and with the organization of the Commonwealth Youth Sunday observances. One typist and a messenger comprised the remaining staff in St. Kitts. About the middle of 1962, a depletion of staff brought about by the secondment of the Community Development Officer to an administrative post, necessitated a redistribution of staff duties in St. Kitts.

In Nevis one officer carried out most of the above functions and in Anguilla there was a part-time officer with similar duties.

### *Training*

In 1959, the Welfare Supervisor, Nevis, attended an eight-week Social Welfare Refresher Course in Trinidad, and in 1960 the Home Demonstration Officer attended a four-week Seminar for Youth Leaders in the same island. In 1960, too, the local Social Welfare Department held a Training Course which was attended by three members of the Department Staff and about 24 other persons from local youth and voluntary organizations.

Funds for these courses were provided under the West Indies General Training Scheme and colony funds respectively.

### *Social Research and Surveys*

Three surveys were carried out in 1961—one on the Needs of Youth by Miss Pearle Jephcott and Mr. Tony Lynes of the London School of Economics—one on Child Care by Miss Monica Green from the Save the Children Fund Organization in Britain, and one on Nutrition by Dr. Watkins of the F.A.O. and W.H.O. agencies of the United Nations. Reports on these surveys, the first two of which covered the British Caribbean, were subsequently made available in this territory.

There was also a familiarization visit in 1960 by Miss Mary Robinson of the National Association of Mixed Clubs and Girls' Clubs and one by Dr. Nancy Adams of the Associated Country Women of the World.

*Children*

For children under the age of four, there are three creches in Basseterre and one in Charlestown. One Children's Home in the territory caters for 20 boys and girls. Half the running expenses of this home are provided by Government and the rest by voluntary contributions.

Assistance is given to individual cases of needy, neglected or handicapped children.

*Adolescents*

There is no regular youth officer, but assistance, encouragement and advice is given to youth and voluntary organizations. It has been decided to form a Youth Council of territorial status with branches in the three islands to co-ordinate and promote youth activity.

*Adults*

An industrial workshop for 20 blind persons was run by the Department in Nevis with the assistance of a voluntary committee. Articles such as mattresses, baskets, hammocks and chair seats were made at the school and presented for sale at an annual exhibition which is becoming an increasingly popular event. In 1962 a free grant from the British Commonwealth Society for the Blind made it possible for the employment of an instructor-manager for the workshop. It is hoped gradually to make the workshop self-supporting.

There is a home for 100 old persons in St. Kitts and smaller institutions for the aged are attached to the hospitals in Nevis and Anguilla.

*Juvenile Delinquency*

Juvenile courts were held in Basseterre and Sandy Point in St. Kitts and at Charlestown in Nevis. The part-time probation officers settled many cases out of court and probation was increasingly used as a form of treatment.

A Discharged Prisoners Aid Committee has been formed to deal with the problems of discharged prisoners.

The following figures for Basseterre, which has the largest population, give an indication of the situation:

Year	Cases Reported			Cases Convicted		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1959 . . .	44	10	54	27	5	32
1960 . . .	15	9	24	5	4	9
1961 . . .	41	14	55	22	6	28
1962 . . .	60	20	80	28	13	41

Type of Offence	1959	1960	1961	1962
Larcency . . .	24	9	22	32
Receiving stolen goods . . .	2	—	2	3
Wounding . . .	8	3	14	10
Forgery . . .	2	—	5	—
Offensive Weapon . . .	2	—	1	3
Malicious damage . . .	—	—	—	1
Assault . . .	6	8	6	10
Fighting . . .	3	—	—	—
Throwing missiles . . .	5	2	3	3
Indecent language . . .	1	1	—	7
Indecent conduct . . .	—	—	—	1
Illicit rum . . .	—	—	—	7
Vagrancy . . .	—	1	2	1
Refusing to give name . . .	—	—	—	1
Cruelty to an animal . . .	—	—	—	1
Total . . .	53	24	55	80

Forms of Treatment	1959	1960	1961	1962
Restitution . . .	—	—	—	2
Cautioned . . .	13	3	14	5
Payment of compensation . . .	7	—	3	—
Withdrawals . . .	11	4	3	16
Dismissed . . .	4	1	7	13
Corporal punishment . . .	6	—	2	6
Reprimanded . . .	5	—	—	2
Extra Mural sentence . . .	3	—	—	—
Struck out . . .	4	8	20	7
Probation . . .	—	4	3	10
Fined . . .	—	2	3	11
Bound over . . .	—	—	—	5
Undecided . . .	—	1	—	3
Total . . .	53	23	55	80

### Public Assistance

Much of the Department's work was concerned with the making of payments and investigations in connection with Outdoor Relief, Old Age Pension, Assistance to Discharged Hansen Home Inmates

and Compassionate Grants. The following tables show the sums allotted and the average number of payees on the lists in these categories:

<i>Categories of Payment</i>	<i>Number on Lists</i>			
	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
Outdoor Relief . . .	1,351	1,281	1,162	1,181
Old Age Pension . . .	428	396	451	474
Assistance to Discharged Hansen Home Inmates . . .	30	29	33	33
Compassionate Grants . . .	2	9	3	8
Total . . .	1,811	1,715	1,649	1,696

<i>Categories of Payments</i>	<i>Sums Provided</i>			
	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
Outdoor Relief . . .	\$ 30,500	\$ 30,500	\$ 30,500	\$ 30,500
Old Age Pension . . .	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Assistance to Discharged Hansen Home Inmates . . .	3,300	2,800	2,800	2,500
Compassionate Grants . . .	300	300	600	600
Totals . . .	59,100	58,600	58,900	58,600

### *Voluntary Organizations*

Youth and Voluntary Organizations have continued to grow and a draft constitution for a Council of Voluntary Social Services was studied with a view to pursuing the possibility of setting up such councils in the three islands of the territory.

### *Emergency Services*

Early in September 1960 Anguilla was severely struck by hurricane Donna. Red Cross and St. John units went into action immediately and were soon assisted with funds, supplies and personnel from many parts of the Caribbean. The Community Development Officer remained in that island for three months assisting with Hurricane Relief. By the end of 1962, 598 persons had received assistance totalling approximately \$837,200.

### *Other Activities*

In St. Kitts, a Homes Families and Gardens Festival was held towards the end of each year. Village Committees arranged their

own programmes and prizes were donated for the best homes and gardens in each district. In 1962 the old wooden trophy for which the villages competed was replaced by two metal plaques of decorative design presented by local firms.

Commonwealth Youth Sunday was celebrated throughout the territory, a central service being held in Nevis and Anguilla and six separate gatherings in town and country districts in St. Kitts.

The 1962 Jubilee celebration was marked by an enthusiasm befitting the occasion.

Although stress has been put on making more efficient the work being done, there has also been gradual expansion during the period under review, in spite of the many problems posed by limited finances, inadequate staffing and a lack of fully trained personnel.

## *Chapter 8: Legislation*

TWENTY-THREE Ordinances were passed in 1959, twenty in 1960, thirty-one in 1961 and seventeen in 1962. Of those passed in 1959 the most important were:

- (i) *The General Development Local Loan (Amendment) Ordinance, 1958, No. 1 of 1959*: This Ordinance provided for greater flexibility in allocating the funds to be raised under the Development Local Loan Ordinance 1957 (No. 9 of 1957). It also made provision for the issue of bearer debentures.
- (ii) *The Customs Surcharge (Amendment) Ordinance, 1958, No. 2 of 1959*: This Ordinance abolished the surcharge leviable on motor vehicles, bicycles and electrical apparatus.
- (iii) *The Stamp Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1958, No. 3 of 1959*: This provided for increases in stamp duty.
- (iv) *The Development Loan (Amendment) Ordinance, 1959, No. 4 of 1959*: This provided for the increase from one million four hundred and forty thousand dollars to one million eight hundred thousand dollars, the loan to be raised under the Development Loan Ordinance 1957, for the purpose of financing certain development projects in the colony.

- (v) *The Currency Ordinance, 1959, No. 6 of 1959:* This revised the law relating to currency, and implements an Agreement made the 28th January 1959 between the Governments of Barbados, British Guiana, Trinidad and Tobago, the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, to provide for a uniform currency in the Eastern Group of the British Caribbean Territories.
- (vi) *The Public Service Commission Ordinance, 1959, No. 10 of 1959:* This provided for the creation of a Public Service Commission, the members of which are to be appointed by the Administrator after consultation with the Chief Minister.
- (vii) *The Attorney-General (Powers) Ordinance, 1959, No. 11 of 1959:* This gave legislative effect to the powers of the Attorney-General with respect to prosecutions and made statutory provision for his salary.
- (viii) *The Police Service Commission Ordinance, 1959, No. 12 of 1959:* This conferred power upon Her Majesty to establish by Order-in-Council a single advisory Police Service Commission for the seven territories of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands consisting of one member from each territory.
- (ix) *The Adaptation of Laws Ordinance, 1959, No. 13 of 1959:* This made provision for adapting the Laws of the colony to conform to the constitutional changes brought about under and by virtue of the Saint Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla Letters Patent 1959, and the Saint Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla Royal Instructions 1959.
- (x) *The Legal Officers (appointment, dismissal and disciplinary control) Ordinance, 1959, No. 15 of 1959:* This provided for the appointment and dismissal and the exercise of disciplinary control of certain legal officers in the service of the colony.
- (xi) *The Saint Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla Constitution and Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1959, No. 18 of 1959:* This provided for changes in the membership and composition of the Legislative Council.
- (xii) *The Traders Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1959, No. 19 of 1959:* This increased the tax paid by traders from  $\frac{1}{4}\%$  to  $\frac{3}{4}\%$  of the value of all goods imported into the colony.
- (xiii) *The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1959, No. 20 of 1959:* This provided that where a disposition of income is made to any person other than for valuable consideration, the income so disposed of shall be deemed to be the income of the grantor.

- (xiv) *The Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance, 1959, No. 21 of 1959:* This made provision for the revision of the Laws of the colony.
- (xv) *The Police Ordinance, 1959, No. 24 of 1959:* This provided for the establishment of a Police Force for the colony in place of the Leeward Islands Police Force.

The Ordinances listed at (vi) to (x) and (xiii) were all enacted to give effect to various decisions taken at the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands Constitutional Conference held in London in June 1959, and to the introduction of a new constitution in 1960.

Of the Ordinances passed in 1960 the most important were:

- (i) *The Saint Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla Constitution and Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1960, No. 2 of 1960:* This Ordinance provided for the colony to be divided for electoral purposes into ten instead of eight constituencies.
- (ii) *The Beach Control Ordinance, 1960, No. 3 of 1960:* This made provision for the public control of the foreshore and beaches of the colony.
- (iii) *The Brewery Ordinance, 1960, No. 4 of 1960:* This regulated the brewing of beer and imposed certain duties thereon.
- (iv) *The Companies Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1960, No. 5 of 1960:* This made provision for the issue of redeemable preference shares; the registration of companies incorporated outside the colony; and the annual submission to the Registrar of certain particulars.
- (v) *The Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1960, No. 7 of 1960:* This increased to \$25 the stamp duty on licences granted under the Ordinance.
- (vi) *The Aid to Pioneer Industries Ordinance, 1960, No. 13 of 1960:* This provided for the establishment and development of new industries in the colony and made provision for the granting of certain relief from customs duty and income tax to persons establishing factories in connection with such industries.
- (vii) *The Marriage (Amendment) Ordinance, 1960, No. 16 of 1960:* This enabled any fully qualified female minister as well as a male minister of any denomination of the Christian Religion to be appointed a marriage officer for the colony.
- (viii) *The Income Tax Ordinance, 1960, No. 17 of 1960:* This consolidated into a single Ordinance all the income tax legislation enacted since 1945, and revised this legislation for the purpose of making it more effective against evasion.

- (ix) *The Inland Revenue Ordinance, 1960, No. 18 of 1960:* This provided for the establishment of a Department of Inland Revenue; the appointment of a Comptroller of Inland Revenue; and other related matters.
- (x) *The Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third-Party Risks) Ordinance, 1960, No. 19 of 1960:* This provided for protection to third parties against risks arising out of the use of motor vehicles on public roads.

In 1961 the most important Ordinances passed were:

- (i) *The General Development Local Loan Ordinance, 1961, No. 2 of 1961:* This Ordinance made provision for the raising of a loan to finance certain projects in the colony's Development Plan for 1960–1965.
- (ii) *The Saint Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla Constitution and Elections (Amendment) Ordinance, 1961, No. 3 of 1961:* This Ordinance provided mainly for compulsory registration of voters for election to the Legislative Council of the colony.
- (iii) *The Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1961, No. 4 of 1961:* This Ordinance provided mainly for an extension in the jurisdiction of Magistrates in civil matters from \$96 to \$200 in cases of contract and from \$48 to \$100 in cases of tort.
- (iv) *The Summary Jurisdiction Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1961, No. 7 of 1961:* This Ordinance provided for an extension in the civil jurisdiction of the Summary Court from £50 to £150, and conferred on that Court power to order a survey in cases involving a land dispute.
- (v) *The Conveyancing and Law of Property Ordinance, 1961, No. 8 of 1961:* This Ordinance brought up to date the law relating to conveyancing and rights of real property.
- (vi) *The Fisheries Ordinance, 1961, No. 13 of 1961:* This Ordinance provided for the regulation of the fishing industry of the colony.
- (vii) *The Diplomatic Immunities (Representatives of Overseas Countries) Ordinance, 1961, No. 14 of 1961:* This Ordinance enabled certain representatives in The West Indies of overseas countries to enjoy the same immunities and privileges as apply to a diplomatic representative accredited to a sovereign state.

- (viii) *The Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Ordinance, 1961, No. 19 of 1961:* This Ordinance created a new offence of causing death by reckless or dangerous driving, the penalty attached thereto being imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years.
- (ix) *The Finance and Audit Ordinance, 1961, No. 27 of 1961:* This Ordinance made provision for the establishment of a Consolidated Revenue Fund for the territory, the regulation of appropriations and payments therefrom, and the regular audit of the public accounts of the territory.
- (x) *The General Local Loan (Amendment) Ordinance, 1961, No. 30 of 1961:* This Ordinance extended the area in which local loans may be raised to the entire West Indies.

The most important Ordinances passed in 1962 were:

- (i) *The Small Trespass Act (Amendment) Ordinance, 1962, No. 1 of 1962:* This Ordinance extended the jurisdiction of Magistrates from \$48 to \$100 in certain cases of trespass.
- (ii) *The Development Loans (United Kingdom Government) Ordinance, 1962, No. 9 of 1962:* This Ordinance provided for the making of loans by Her Majesty's Government to the Government of the colony for the purpose of financing a development programme approved by the Secretary of State and by the Legislative Council.
- (iii) *The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1962, No. 17 of 1962:* This provided that non-residents should be eligible for double taxation relief on the same basic terms as residents.

## *Chapter 9: Justice, Police and Prisons*

### **JUSTICE**

THE Acts of the Leeward Islands and the Ordinances of Saint Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla constitute a fairly considerable body of statute law in force in the colony. In addition, there are the various Laws of the West Indies and some Imperial Statutes, such as the British Nationality Act, 1948, and the Merchant Shipping Acts, 1894 to 1952, which are applicable to the colonies generally and therefore extend to the colony. Subject to these, the Common Law of England is applicable to the colony.

The Courts of Law in the colony are:

- (a) The Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands;
- (b) The Court of Summary Jurisdiction;
- (c) The Magistrate's Court; and
- (d) The Juvenile Court.

From the 1st January 1960 the Supreme Court of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands, created on the 1st January 1940, ceased to exist and by virtue of an Order-in-Council cited as the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands (Courts) Order-in-Council, 1959, a new Superior Court of Record bearing the same name as its predecessor was created for the colonies of Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Dominica, Antigua, St. Kitts Nevis and Anguilla, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands. This court is presided over by a Chief Justice and there are such number of Puisne Judges as may from time to time be determined. At the end of 1962 there was a complement of five Puisne Judges.

Sittings of the Supreme Court on Circuit in its criminal jurisdiction (with a jury of nine) are held in St. Kitts in the months of January, July and October; in Nevis, in the months of April and November; and in Anguilla in the months of February and June. The Attorney-General exercises the functions of the Grand Jury.

The Court of Summary Jurisdiction sits without a jury in the colony for the trial of civil cases where a sum of not more than \$720 is involved. The sittings of the court are fixed for dates during the month in which the Circuit Court sessions are to be held, but in practice they are adjourned until the criminal list is disposed of in the Circuit Courts.

Cases of every type can be tried by the Supreme Court. On the criminal side of the Supreme Court, offences under the Offences against the Person Act, Cap. 41, preponderate. Actions for recovery of debts are the most numerous in the Summary Jurisdiction Court.

Appeals from the Supreme Court lie to the Court of Appeal of the Windward Islands and Leeward Islands (which was also created by the Order-in-Council of 1959) against convictions on indictment on a question of law alone or otherwise with leave of the Court of Appeal. Appeals lie to the Court of Appeal in civil matters against judgments in Chambers interlocutory judgments and judgments of the Summary Jurisdiction Court. The Court of Appeal does not have jurisdiction, however, wherever the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal has exclusive jurisdiction in the matter. The judges of the

Supreme Court are also judges of the Court of Appeal, the Chief Justice being the President of the latter court. The Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal is the successor to the Federal Supreme Court and exercises the same jurisdiction in regard to the territory as was exercised by the former court.

Summary criminal offences and civil claims up to a limit of \$200 in contract and \$100 in tort are dealt with by the District Magistrates. Their jurisdiction is prescribed by the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act (Cap. 61). Appeals from decisions of Magistrates go to the Court of Appeal and from there further appeal may be made to the Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal.

A Juvenile Court was established in 1950. The District Magistrates and two assessors, one of whom is a woman, constitute this Court. Its procedure is prescribed by the Juvenile Courts Procedure Rules, 1949. The Juvenile Act, 1949, constitutes the code which regulates the legal protection and treatment of juveniles.

*Footnote:* The Federal Supreme Court went out of existence after 31st March 1962, owing to the dissolution of The West Indies Federation.

#### POLICE

At the end of 1959, the Police Force of the colony ceased to be a division of the former Leeward Islands Police.

Legislation passed on the 18th December 1959 created an Independent Police Force known as the "St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla Police Force" as from the 1st January 1960.

The new Ordinance (Police Ordinance No. 24 of 1959) provided the option for all members of the Leeward Islands Police serving on the 1st January 1960 to elect either to remain in the new Force or be transferred to the Antigua-Montserrat-Virgin Islands Police Force, or to retire on pension and/or gratuity. At the end of the period for option, approximately 50 per cent of the personnel serving elected either to retire or be transferred to the Antigua-Montserrat-Virgin Islands Police Force, the majority of them being natives of Antigua.

This resulted in a strain on the senior officers remaining in the St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla Police Force who, in addition to their normal duties, were responsible for training recruits taken on to fill the vacancies in the Force.

The Force is under the command of a Chief of Police, with Headquarters at Basseterre, on the island of St. Kitts.

The establishment and strength of the Force from 1959 to 1962 are shown in the following table:

1959		1960		1961		1962	
Est.	Strength	Est.	Strength	Est.	Strength	Est.	Strength
135	129	140	135	155	142	155	146

The establishment in 1962 included an Inspector and 29 other ranks attached to the Fire Department and three Women Police Constables.

### *Training*

During the period under review, personnel of the Force attended courses of training as follows:

Recruit initial Training in Barbados	Refresher Course Barbados	Fire Fighting in Trinidad	Metropolitan Police Training School, Hendon and Wakefield, England
1959 16 Constables	—	—	—
1960 62 Constables	2 Cpl. 2 P/Cs	2 Corporals	2 Sergeants
1961 16 Constables	1 Sergeant	1 Inspector	1 Sergeant

Two Corporals attended a six-week course each in Special Branch and Immigration work with the Trinidad Police in 1959 and 1961 respectively, and one Inspector attended a Security Course in Jamaica in 1962.

### *Crime*

There was a slight increase in the number of indictable crimes against property reported in 1962.

These were cleared up at the end of the year with the arrest of three offenders who were responsible for a number of offences between 1961 and 1962. They were all convicted and sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from three to seven years with hard labour.

Comparative figures are given in the table below for the years 1959 to 1962:

	1959	1960	1961	1962
Crimes against property	558	527	265	531
Crimes against the person . . .	338	380	405	372
Total reports	896	907	670	902

### *Fingerprints and Photography*

The total number of finger prints on file at the end of 1962 was 1,253.

11 persons were identified by fingerprints left at the scenes of crime between 1959 and 1962.

The photographic branch of the Force played a very important part in photographing scenes of crime and road accidents. Officers gave evidence in court in a number of cases.

### *Juvenile Delinquency*

Juvenile offenders continued to be a problem. There was an increase in the number of offences each year. This increase in recent years is due to migration of a large number of parents from these islands to Britain and the United States Virgin Islands in search of employment. They leave their children with elderly people or guardians who are unable to exercise proper control over them, and in many cases the children are neglected when the parents fail to send the money required for their maintenance.

The following table shows the number of offenders brought before the court for the years 1959 to 1962:

	1959	1960	1961	1962
Persons Prosecuted .	46	24	95	116

### *Smuggling*

There has been a decrease in the number of offences against the Trade and Revenue Laws from 1961. This was due to the activities of the Government Coast Guard Launch put into service in November 1961.

The number of offenders brought before the court was as follows:

	1959	1960	1961	1962
Persons Prosecuted .	89	104	67	18

### *Illicit Distillation*

This type of offence increased in 1962. It is believed that persons who formerly indulged in the illegal importation of liquor and other goods from the neighbouring French and Dutch islands now turn to the illicit distillation of rum as an alternative.

The following table shows the number of stills destroyed, persons prosecuted and fines imposed for the period 1959 to 1962:

	1959	1960	1961	1962
Stills Destroyed .	146	126	159	181
Persons Prosecuted .	117	97	92	125
Fines Imposed .	\$7,801	\$6,205	\$6,295	\$9,919

### *Vehicles*

The total number of vehicles registered in the colony up to the end of 1962 was 1,731.

The following tables show the number of vehicles registered and road accidents from 1959 to 1962:

<i>Vehicles Registered</i>				
	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
Registered (all types)	1,525	1,601	1,632	1,731
Licensed (all types)	1,304	1,332	1,459	1,541
<i>Road Accidents</i>				
	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
Fatal	4	5	5	5
Other	59	135	184	190
Total	63	140	189	195

### *Migration*

There was a decrease in the number of migrants to Britain consequent upon the introduction of the Commonwealth Immigration Act in 1962.

The following table gives the arrivals in and departure from the colony for the period 1959 to 1962:

	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
Arrivals	7,955	9,553	12,389	14,086
Departures	9,016	12,178	14,688	15,175

### **PRISONS**

The main prison is situated in the town of Basseterre on the island of St. Christopher. There is a farm prison for young offenders and star class prisoners on the island of Nevis which is about eleven miles south east of St. Kitts. There is also a lock-up under the charge of the Police on the island of Anguilla which is located about sixty miles north of St. Kitts.

The prison staff for the four years under review was as follows:

	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
Keeper of Prisons	1	1	1	1
Chief Officer	1	1	1	1
Officer i/c Farm Prison	1	1	1	1
Male Subordinate				
Officers	15	15	15	16
Matron Female Prison	1	1	1	1
Female Subordinate				
Officer	1	1	1	1
Female Subordinate				
Officer Relief	—	—	1	1
	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>

<i>Prison Population</i>	1959			1960			1961			1962		
	M.	F.	Total									
Nos. at 1st Jan. .	73	5	78	75	6	81	56	5	61	50	4	54
Nos. at 31st Dec. .	76	6	82	56	5	61	50	4	54	78	2	80
Total admitted .	315	51	366	242	49	291	281	39	320	367	54	421
Number transferred to farm prison .	45	—	45	39	—	39	63	—	63	56	—	56

In conformity with the practice in most territories, the term recidivism applies only to offenders with three or more prison sentences of a serious nature and for which the maximum sentence is two years or more. On this basis the yearly percentages for the period under review were as follows:

<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
10.93%	6.53%	13.00%	5.46%

Admissions in default of payment of fines and costs were:

<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
173	137	147	181

There is little that can be done to permit the proper segregation of the various classes of prisoners at the Basseterre Prison. This difficulty was however largely overcome by young offenders and star class prisoners normally being sent to serve their sentences at the farm prison, Nevis, where there is accommodation for thirty prisoners. The lock-up at Anguilla was under the direct control of the Police who took care of prisoners with sentences up to 14 days. Prisoners with longer sentences are sent to the main prison in St. Kitts.

*Discipline.* The discipline of prisoners over the period under review was generally good. Breaches of Prison discipline were dealt with as follows:

	<i>1959</i>	<i>1960</i>	<i>1961</i>	<i>1962</i>
Loss of Remission				
Mark . . .	4	3	9	10
Restricted Diet . . .	2	3	3	4
Deprived of early tea . . .	14	9	4	6
Reprimanded . . .	17	10	15	13
Confinement to cell . . .	2	4	3	4
Loss of Privileges . . .	14	8	—	1
Exclusion from Associated Work . . .	2	4	—	1
Corporal Punishment . . .	—	—	—	—
Cautioned . . .	14	12	2	3
Dismissed . . .	2	4	2	1
Total . . .	71	57	38	43

*Executions.* There were three executions—two during 1959 and one in 1961.

*Health.* The health of prisoners was generally good and no deaths occurred from natural causes. One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was diagnosed.

*Vocational and other training.* Prisoners received training in basic agriculture at the farm prison, including poultry and livestock rearing. Carpentry, mattress making, the preparation of coir from coconut husks, tailoring and shoe-making were all taught at Basseterre Prison.

A limited number of books was available at the Prison Library.

*Aid on Discharge.* There were no "After Care" facilities but prisoners discharged on completion of sentences of six months and over received financial assistance at the rate of 1s. per week of sentence served. Long sentence prisoners were also assisted by the issue of tools and clothing, according to the circumstances.

## *Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works*

### **ROADS**

EXTENSIVE repairs to the roads in St. Kitts were carried out and the main road round the Island, approximately 32 miles with a bitumen surface, was cleared and widened in the period under review. A programme of patching and re-sealing was continued. Maintenance of the earth roads in St. Kitts was considerably improved by the use of earth-moving equipment.

Normal maintenance work was carried out on the Nevis roads and in Anguilla short sections of the main road at East End and near the Administration building were surfaced, and approximately one mile of bitumen surfaced road was constructed.

### **TELEPHONES**

A new building for the automatic telephone exchange in St. Kitts was completed, underground cables were laid and equipment installed in the exchange. By the end of 1962 about 150 new dial telephones were installed in subscribers premises.

The VHF link to Nevis was installed and put into satisfactory use after initial technical trouble.

In Nevis the local system was maintained in a satisfactory manner and the demand for additional telephones for new subscribers increased.

In Anguilla the system gradually declined and has become an antiquated system requiring complete replacement.

#### BUILDINGS

The Buildings completed during the years under review were:

Post Office and Customs building, Basseterre

Administration building and Police Station, Anguilla

Airport terminal building, Anguilla

Maternity Wing, Alexandra Hospital, Nevis

Veterinary Office, Basseterre

Extension to Charlestown Secondary School, Nevis

Work was started on the Technical Wing at the Education Centre

Basseterre, and on the site for a new Administration Building, Basseterre

Work was carried out on the reconstruction of Basseterre Market but final completion was delayed pending the arrival of the turnstile gates. The Market was however put into regular use.

In Nevis, quarters for the Agricultural Department were constructed at Cades Bay, Indian Castle, Hard Times and Fothergills, and a Warehouse at Fothergills was also reconstructed.

#### AIRPORTS

The extension to the Golden Rock Airport, Basseterre, was completed while construction of the new airport building was commenced.

#### WATER SUPPLY

A satisfactory supply for St. Kitts was maintained throughout the period. In Charlestown, Nevis, the supply was often much less than the demand while in August the frequent breakdown of pumping equipment caused much hardship.

Improvements to the supply in St. Kitts consisted of replacement of 2"-1½" galvanised line from Basseterre to Conaree by a 4" asbestos cement pipe, and a new 6" asbestos cement line from Phillips intake to Mansion balancing tank. A steel truss roof was erected over the Gibbons reservoir. In Nevis, one new well was dug at Pinneys to augment the supply for Charlestown. The pump for this was ordered but had not arrived at the end of 1962. In Anguilla one well was drilled at the Valley, one 5,000 gallon storage tank at West End was constructed and a new 4" asbestos cement main from Old Towers to South Hill was started.

## *Chapter 11: Communications*

### **SHIPPING**

COMMUNICATIONS between the colony and Britain were maintained by vessels of the Harrison Line which called fortnightly at St. Kitts direct from London to discharge general cargo. Vessels of this line also loaded sugar and cotton for Britain. During the sugar-reaping season there is approximately one call per month loading for Britain. Calls were made to load cotton when sufficient tonnage offered.

Communications between the colony and western Europe were maintained by fortnightly service by vessels of the Royal Netherland Steamship Company. These vessels loaded at Bremen, Hamburg, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

Communications between the colony and Canada were maintained by Saguenay Shipping Ltd. which called fortnightly from Montreal and Halifax during the open navigation on the St. Lawrence and from Halifax and St. John, N.B., during the winter months.

A direct monthly service from New York to St. Kitts was maintained by the Booth Steamship Company and the Atlantic line which call monthly from New York, Miami and Nassau.

The *Federal Palm* and *Federal Maple* maintain a fortnightly service both north and south bound from Trinidad to Jamaica calling at all the islands. Inter-island service is maintained by M/V *Ripon* on a regular monthly service. The monthly direct service from Curacao is maintained by the Dutch Motor Vessel *Antillia*.

### **CIVIL AVIATION**

British West Indian Airways maintained a weekly service between St. Kitts (Golden Rock Airport) and other islands of the British and French West Indies and Puerto Rico. The services to Jamaica and Barbados connect with the services of British Overseas Airways to Britain. B.W.I.A. made 708 calls at St. Kitts during 1959, 1,042 calls during 1960, 1,169 calls during 1961 and 1,366 calls during 1962.

K.L.M. continued to maintain a service between Curacao and St. Martin, calling at Guadeloupe and St. Kitts.

The Leeward Island Air Transport (L.I.A.T.), which began operations in July 1956, maintained a regular weekly service to Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, St. Eustatius, St. Martin, Anguilla and Puerto Rico. The islands of Nevis, Barbados and Dominica were added to the schedule of L.I.A.T. in 1958. The aircrafts used

are Piper Apaches, Beechcraft twin Bonanza and the Heron. L.I.A.T. made 710 calls at St. Kitts during 1959, 849 calls during 1960, 1,369 calls during 1961 and 1,309 calls during 1962.

There is a small airfield on the island of Nevis about 6½ miles from Charlestown. The runway is a grass strip 1,500 feet long and 90 feet wide. Plans for future improvements provide for the extension of the metalled runway to a length of 2,640 feet and a width of 300 feet to cope with heavier aircraft which are likely to be used in due course.

Aeronautical telecommunications services in St. Kitts are operated by International Aeradio (West Indies) Limited.

#### RAILWAYS

There is one narrow gauge light railway in the colony, which is in St. Kitts and is owned and operated by the St. Kitts (Basseterre) Sugar Factory. Its total length is 36 miles. This railway is used to transport sugar-cane from the fields to the sugar factory and sugar from the factory to the wharf.

#### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Cable and Wireless (West Indies) Limited maintain a station in St. Kitts which is connected by cable with other parts of the West Indies. Radio-telephony services are operated by the company with other islands in the West Indies, Britain, Canada and the United States.

A limited local service is operated by the Government between St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla.

### *Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services*

#### PRESS

THE following newspapers and periodicals were published in the colony during the period under review:

Fortnightly: *The St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla Official Gazette.*

Weekly: *The Democrat.*

Daily: *The St. Kitts-Nevis Daily Bulletin;*  
*Labour Spokesman.*

**BROADCASTING**

In November 1959, the Government received a grant of £23,000 from Colonial Development and Welfare funds to establish a Public Service Broadcasting Service owned and operated by the Government.

This station, known as Radio Station ZIZ, commenced operation on the 5th March 1961, when it was declared open by the then Governor General of The West Indies Federation, His Excellency Lord Hailes. At the outset the station broadcast for three hours daily, but later the time was extended to seven and one quarter hours daily (6.45—10.00 a.m. and 6—10 p.m.). This excludes special broadcasts, which sometimes bring the total broadcasting hours to 15 hours a day. The output consists of relays of B.B.C. news, sports review (B.B.C. and local), locally originated gramophone record programmes, musical items (local), religious broadcasts (local), and limited schools broadcasts. The station is widely listened to not only throughout the British Leeward Islands, but also by the neighbouring French and Dutch Islands lying to the north.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

In 1960, a Broadcasting and Information Officer was appointed but later the post was redesignated Broadcasting and Public Relations Officer, and an Information Officer appointed.

The Information Officer deals with Government publications, official visitors and the distribution of Government information.

**FILMS**

During the period under review, the showing of films was done spasmodically, and only on special occasion by the Social Welfare Department (and its branches in Nevis and Anguilla), the Agricultural Extension Service in Nevis, and the St. Kitts-Nevis Grammar School.

*Chapter 13: Local Forces*

THE St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla Defence Force came into being in 1898, was reorganised in 1913 and was on active service during the wars of 1914–18 and 1939–45. The force is a purely voluntary body and no member receives any pay and allowances save when the force is embodied for actual service, or is on active service, or on

annual training. During 1954, a new and up-to-date Ordinance was enacted repealing the laws relating to the Defence Force and Defence Reserve and making suitable provision for the control, training and discipline of the force. The Defence Reserve was abolished in 1954.

The strength of the Defence Force at the end of 1962 was five officers and 84 men, 20 of whom comprise the band. All ranks are trained in foot and arms drill and shoot an annual musketry course.

The Defence Force takes part in two major ceremonial parades each year—Her Majesty's Birthday parade and the Remembrance Day Service—and also provides the Guard of Honour when the occasion demands.

There is a Cadet Corps attached to the Grammar School.

## PART III

### *Chapter 1: Geography and Climate*

ST. KITTS and Nevis are tops of the submerged inner range of mountains which once ran in a curve from the coast of Venezuela to Yucatan and Florida. The two islands are separated by a strait three miles wide, in the midst of which rises the rock known as Booby Island. Anguilla, which is situated some 60 miles north of St. Kitts, is formed by a mass of coral built on the foreland of the submerged range. It has a flat surface, the highest point rising only 213 feet above the sea. This is in contrast with St. Kitts and Nevis, which rise respectively 3,711 and 3,596 feet. Both St. Kitts and Nevis are volcanic, Mount Misery in St. Kitts being an eroded cone with a large crater.

The climate of the islands is governed by their position, elevation, and direction of axis. Their latitude of between  $17\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  and  $18\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N. places them near the high pressure belt of calm, descending air, which lies along the Tropic of Cancer. Hence, as compared with the islands farther east, they have a lower mean temperature and, broadly speaking, a lower rainfall. St. Kitts whose long axis lies athwart the Trade Winds, has a mean average temperature of  $78.8^{\circ}$  F. with a mean rainfall of 54 inches. Nevis enjoys a similar temperature, but has a mean rainfall of only 48 inches owing to its compact shape, whilst the low-lying Anguilla, whose long axis runs parallel to the path of the Trades, is too dry to support the luxuriant forest characteristic of the West Indies and is largely covered with low bushes. The islands lie in the path of the hurricanes which sweep through the Caribbean between July and November: St. Kitts was struck by one in 1889. The two islands were again struck by hurricane in 1924 and 1928 with resultant severe damages to crops and property. In 1960 Anguilla was severely struck by hurricane Donna which also caused severe damage. Earth tremors occur in both islands; the most recent heavy tremors were recorded in 1962.

In St. Kitts and Nevis the parts of the hills above 1,200 feet are covered with forest which in the latter island is protected by law in order to maintain the rainfall. Some of the trees, like lignum vitae, locust, and galba, yield good hardwood, and others like the bread-fruit, mango, papaw, soursop, avocado pear, sapodilla, and cashew,

bear fruit which are much used for local consumption. The small extent of the forests, which is 18,000 acres out of the total land area of 96,000 acres, does not enable much economic use to be made of the timber trees.

In St. Kitts most of the cultivable land, which consists of the lower slopes of the hills, is divided into large, privately-owned sugar plantations ("estates"). The labourers grow subsistence crops of sweet potatoes, yams, cassava, maize, peas, beans, greens, bananas, etc., on the upper parts of the slopes. In Nevis the land is nearly all in the hands of peasant proprietors, and the same is true to an even greater extent in Anguilla. The chief economic crops in St. Kitts and Nevis are the traditional sugar-cane and cotton. A recent enterprise in cotton cultivation has had some success in Anguilla. In St. Kitts these crops are cultivated chiefly on plantations which send their canes to a central factory near Basseterre to be turned into sugar and molasses. The cotton crop, which is ginned locally, is much affected by a pest known as the pink bollworm.

In St. Kitts some 15,000 persons live in Basseterre, the administrative capital of the islands. In Nevis and Anguilla the sparse population is more evenly distributed.

## *Chapter 2: History*

THE colony consists of three islands: St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla. St. Christopher, or St. Kitts, and Nevis were discovered by Christopher Columbus on his second voyage to the West Indies in 1493, while Anguilla is said to have been discovered and colonised by the English in 1650.

British West Indian colonisation dates from January 1623, when Captain Thomas Warner (afterwards Sir Thomas Warner) landed with a party at St. Kitts on the bay where the town of Old Road now stands, and with the licence of the Carib King, Tegreeman, founded a settlement there. St. Kitts was also the site of the first French colony, the island being divided between British and French colonists during the first year of its occupation by European settlers. The branch colonies which sprang from this settlement gave St. Kitts the proud title of "Mother of the Antilles".

Five years after the colonisation of St. Kitts, the English from St. Kitts established themselves in Nevis, under the protection and guidance of Captain Thomas Warner.

While Nevis was enjoying a period of comparative prosperity after its colonisation, St. Kitts was the scene of several battles between the English and the French for its entire possession. From 1666 there was constant war between the two occupying forces until 1783 when, by the Treaty of Versailles, St. Kitts became an entirely British possession and has remained so ever since. By this same treaty, Nevis, which was invaded and seized by the French for the last time in 1782, was also restored to British sovereignty.

Apart from several incursions by the French and frequent plunderings by marauders, Anguilla has remained a British possession since its colonisation. The last attempt at capturing Anguilla was made by the French in 1796; but due to the timely arrival of Captain Robert Barton, commanding H.M.S. *Lapwing*, the defenceless inhabitants of the island were saved from complete annihilation.

The best known events in the colony's history are perhaps the defence of Brimstone Hill in St. Kitts in 1782, an action which ultimately contributed to the defeat of the French fleet at "The Saints", near Dominica, by Rodney; the marriage at Nevis in 1787 of Lord Nelson, commander of the Leeward Islands Naval Station, and the young widow Nisbet of Nevis; and the birth at Charlestown, Nevis, in 1757 of Alexander Hamilton, the son of a Scottish planter, who became one of the draughtsmen of the American constitution. The remains of his alleged birth-place are still to be seen.

### Chapter 3: Administration

THE colony of Saint Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla came into existence on the 1st July 1956, the day appointed for the coming into operation of the Leeward Islands (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order-in-Council, 1956 (S.I. No. 833), made under the Leeward Islands Act, 1956 (4 & 5 Eliz. 2, Ch. 23). This Act, which constituted the Presidencies of the Leeward Islands separate colonies, repealed the Leeward Islands Act, 1871, and thus abrogated the federal constitution created in 1871 under which the Leeward Islands colony was established with five Presidencies, namely, Antigua with Barbuda and Redonda; Saint Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla; Montserrat; Dominica and the British Virgin Islands. "Defederation", as it is called, had begun in 1940 when Dominica ceased to be a Presidency of the Leeward Islands and became a separate colony under the Governor of the Windward Islands. It was completed by the Leeward Islands Act, 1956.

Up to the end of 1959 the colony was administered under the Governor of the Leeward Islands in a manner similar to the Windward Islands. However, from the 1st January 1960, by virtue of constitutional amendment, the Administrator of the colony assumed the powers and duties of the Governor, that post being abolished, and the Crown Attorney, redesignated Attorney-General, assumed the functions of the former Attorney-General of the Leeward Islands in relation to the colony. The following departments are directly responsible to the Administrator: Secretariat, Audit and Police.

Besides the three islands of Saint Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla, the colony includes the island of Sombrero which was formally transferred from the Presidency of the Virgin Islands to Saint Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla with effect from the 1st May 1956. As Sombrero contains only a lighthouse and a lighthouse-keeper and three other residents, all natives of the colony, the transfer was effected solely for purposes of administrative convenience.

The constitution of 1952 established under the Saint Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla Constitution and Elections Ordinance, No. 5 of 1952, introduced universal adult suffrage into the colony. Further, the Ordinance provided that every lay resident British subject (not of unsound mind, adjudicated bankrupt, or under sentence of death or imprisonment exceeding 12 months) was qualified for election to the Legislative Council.

The Ministerial system introduced on the 19th January 1956, whereby the Governor assigned certain departments or subjects to three elected members of Executive Council, was further developed by constitutional amendment so that from the 1st January 1960, the Administrator assigned subjects and departments to a Chief Minister and three other Ministers: Minister of Agriculture and Labour, Minister of Communications and Works and Minister of Social Services. The Chief Minister is also Minister of Finance. It is however constitutionally provided that matters relating to law and order, the Judiciary, the Courts, the Public Service and Audit should be reserved from assignment.

The colony is constitutionally provided with an Executive Council and a Legislative Council. The Executive Council consists of a Chief Minister, three other Ministers, a member without portfolio (all elected members) and the Attorney-General. The Administrator presides at meetings of the Council. The Administrator, acting in his discretion, appoints as Chief Minister the elected member most likely to command a majority of the elected members of Legislative Council. The other ministers are appointed by the Administrator on the advice of the Chief Minister from among the elected and nominated members of Legislative Council.

The Executive Council has general direction and control of the government of the colony and is collectively responsible therefor to the Legislative Council.

The Leeward Islands Act, 1956, enables Her Majesty by Order-in-Council to make or to authorise the Administrator to make such emergency regulations as may be deemed necessary or expedient:

- (i) to maintain and secure public safety and order;
- (ii) to provide, maintain and secure supplies and services.

The Legislative Council since October 1961 consists of ten elected members, two nominated members and the Attorney-General. The Administrator does not preside at meetings, this function now being performed by a Speaker elected by the House.

A Public Service Commission created by statute came into effect in 1960. The members are appointed by the Administrator acting after consultation with the Chief Minister. The Commission functions as an advisory body to the Administrator on questions relating to public officers and other matters affecting the Public Service. A Judicial and Legal Service Commission and a Police Service Commission also came into operation in 1960. The former Commission functions as an advisory body in relation to officers in the Judicial and Legal Service, whereas the latter performs advisory functions in respect of the Police.

## *Chapter 4: Weights and Measures*

STANDARD imperial weights and measures are used in the colony. Periodical examination of weights and measures by Government inspectors is provided by law.

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